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NATIONAL VETERINARY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND

Presidential Address*

By

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Post-war Problems as they Concern the Veterinary Profession

It is inevitable that in addressing you at such a time as this, the thoughts embodied in the phrase " post-war problems " should be foremost in our minds. What, then, are these post-war problems of which it is at present fashionable to speak ? As they concern us here they are twofold : there are the general problems that we share with all our contemporaries outside the profession, and the special problems that confront us as essentially veterinary ones. In the general sense we aim at making it possible to live out our lives decently, to do our jobs with reasonable freedom from dictation from without, with a minimum of fear of such things as want and old age. We want to be free to marry reasonably early, to bear our fair quota of children and, when the time comes for us to pass on, leave our families in a state of reasonable security.

These are obvious statements, and I will not dilate on them, for my chief concern is with the shape of things to come in our daily round in our professional life. But in relation to these primal needs our life must, within the profession, be regulated to a great extent. It is manifest that our education must be planned and carried out with a view to sending out graduates able to hold their own alongside the other learned professions, not only in our own estimation, but in the estimation of those outside our calling. The work we do must be made to command a living wage, worthy of a high degree of hardly won specialised skill. This, in the days when we served but one master—our client—was more or less automatically dependent upon our industry and skill as individuals. But nowadays the problem is bound up with a new factor that year by year is taking an ever-increasing part in our economic existence as veterinary surgeons. We are in this country increasingly defying the scriptural fiat that no man can serve two masters, in that a major part of our work on the farm is done for the client at the bidding and cost of the State. So, more and more our success or failure to earn a living tends to become divorced from the hard-earned confidence of the client, and married to the goodwill and opinions of a small section of the State veterinary service. There is real danger in this duality of service and responsibility that must be kept in the foreground of our constructive thought and allowed for in our planning for the future. A virtual dictatorship of a few ruling minds of a State department in matters of health and disease on the farm is a danger that must be guarded against. Even now it has become impossible for the majority of country veterinary surgeons to be sure of making a decent living unless they are willing to take their share in the local activities of the Animal Health Division of the Ministry of Agriculture. For some time now the annual sum paid out to the profession by the Exchequer has been round the quarter million mark and will, with recent extensions of our activities, greatly increase in the future. Are we burying our heads in the sands and permitting this great revolutionary movement to take place without counting the consequences ?

Nor must we be forgetful, since these things are as they are, that we owe an allegiance to the Ministry of Agriculture, which has become so preponderant an employer of our time and skill. I do not think this Association has failed in its activities in this respect. In fact, in order to keep its members up to date in specialised techniques, it has always demanded more than could be given. We still await, for example, refresher courses, promised at the Weybridge laboratory, calculated to keep our methods not only abreast of the times, but of a technical standard accepted by the Ministry as minimal in such things as tuberculin testing and dairy inspections. And just as we owe the Ministry a responsibility, so do they, the employers, owe us of the National Veterinary Medical Association an equal degree of consideration. For example, I have never been able to agree with the way in which members of our profession are chosen to sit on departmental and similar official committees. True the choice may be the obvious one, and often has been, but the point to my mind is that a body so representative of the profession as a whole—as I think we can claim the N.V.M.A. to be—should surely be consulted on such occasions, so that the veterinary representative has the backing of the largest possible proportion of the profession and can moreover speak with an authority that an *ad hoc* selection of individuals cannot give to any one.

Many of us have been preoccupied with the problem of how best these services that we render on behalf of the State can be carried out. Are we gradually to become whole-time State servants ? Would a Corporation, as suggested by my predecessor in office, better utilise our services ? Is the present compromise of x whole-time officers plus y part-time practitioners going to be the best ? Most of you would say " yes " to this latter, to which I would answer : " And what happens when x is greater than y ? "

I confess to a secret weakness for another form of long-term compromise that has already, I believe, found some exponents across the North Sea. This involves the purchase, as opportunity offers, of private practices by the State. Into this practice is installed a practitioner with a basic salary from the State for his State services with a right to private practice in addition. To such practices could be seconded as assistants from time to time, the junior ranks of the inspectorate of the Ministry. This does away at least with what has always seemed to me the bugbear of whole-time veterinary State service, the lifelong dedication of a young man to a far too narrow circle of veterinary activity. It has led, and will in the future to a far greater extent lead, to a dangerous cleavage in our ranks. On that ground alone I think the principle of the system is worthy of serious examination. One might go so far as to carry out an experiment much on the lines of the famous Carlisle experiment of a generation back in the licensing trade houses of that district.

And now, just a brief word on the State veterinary service itself. For some years, the posts that I have occupied in the service of the Association have given me the opportunity of feeling the pulse as it were of the Animal Health Division. And it may be that having met and talked with so many of its members, both high and low, a few remarks from a distance may be of value. It is my considered opinion that no finer or more devoted group of specialist officers can be found in this country or abroad than the veterinarians of the Animal Health Division. Although greatly restricted by a code of Civil Service ethics that many consider outmoded, they are foremost in giving this Association their unstinted help to the utmost permitted to them. That they do this, knowing that

* Delivered on the occasion of the Sixty-second Annual General Meeting held at the Connaught Rooms, Great Queen Street (Kingsway), London, on October 19th, 1944.

the highest awards that the Association has to offer are beyond their grasp—although their individual attainments so often mark them as eminently fitted for leadership—only heightens the magnitude of their service. I am glad to pay public tribute to this magnificent altruism.

Yet I know, as do many of you, that all is by no means well with these people. It is time that we were honest about this and took up, if not cudgels, then at least a velvet glove on their behalf. There is a rapidly crystallising body of discontent among the rank and file, both with the strategy of the Higher Command as well as with the conditions of their service and emoluments. I do not seek for scapegoats; I merely state observed facts. If some of the fault is no doubt within the Division itself, equally also is there fault elsewhere. I voiced this latter thought in a letter to *The Times* last January when I said that the Animal Health Division "is constrained in the absence of higher guidance . . . to confine itself to partial measures of an *ad hoc* type, that in no sense match the urgency of the occasion."

But I will not venture further into these realms of higher strategy. Here are one or two tactical points that bear on the issues. The first is a financial one. It has actually been quoted to me on more than one occasion that the reason for the bar of four guineas per day on our earnings for the Ministry was that if we earned more we should exceed the salary of even the highest officials of the Service. In these days of heavy taxation this is somewhat unfair comment. I believe the net receipt of a State servant for each shilling he earns, after rendering his dues to Caesar, is round about sixpence; I know that the net receipt of the general practitioner who earns a shilling in the gross is not much more than twopence, after deducting taxes and the very heavy overheads of general practice at this moment. The recognition of this simple and fundamental difference in our respective lots should, I consider, soften the hearts and loosen the purse-strings of the Treasury to practitioners in particular.

When we consider the salaries paid to the veterinary officers of the Division, we can only feel dismay. Of the eleven learned professions on the pay roll of the Ministry of Agriculture, the salary of the veterinarian is lowest but one. Where the doctors earn £100, the engineers £90 and the sanitary inspectorate £79, the veterinary inspector has to be content with £55, that is to say, he is roughly half the value of the medical man in the eyes of the Exchequer!

It is abundantly plain that this unfair discrimination must be ended. A dozen Loveday Reports crying out for more men suitable for the State service will be unavailing until this major wrong is put to rights.

I am sure you would wish me to declare on your behalf that the Association is behind the whole-time staff of the Ministry to the utmost of its power in any efforts they may make in this direction. A similar discrepancy exists, too, in the Colonial Veterinary Services and should be likewise speedily rectified if a strong and happy veterinary service is to develop, as it can and will develop, when our members get the square deal that will bring them into fairer relationship with their medical colleagues.

The report of the Loveday Committee has brought this matter of education to the forefront of our current problems. It is unfortunate that the decisions of the electorate as to whom should represent the profession on the Council R.C.V.S. should have been almost exclusively based upon the attitude of candidates to this problem at a time when the aims of the Committee as set out in the Report were the target of a spate of sentimental reaction upon the one-portal issue. The passage of time and the replacement of sentiment by reason has already demonstrated that the rank and file of the profession has a more sensible outlook to the problems involved than the early rhetorical outbursts of our more voluble brethren would lead the outsider to believe was in fact in existence.

One has only to read the report of the July meeting of Council R.C.V.S. to see that even our legislators are to a large extent groping manfully in the dark over these suggestions. It is fatally easy for us to lose the good things implicit in the Loveday Report, if we allow ourselves to develop a negative destructive attitude instead of a positive and constructive one based upon reasoned argument. It is in this spirit that I venture upon the following observations.

Can we not clear our minds a little as to what is meant by the phrase "association with the universities"? It is a pity that the word university has come to mean two very different things. There is the aggregation of vocational institutions teaching the would-be professional of the future anything from shorthand to saxophones. These are entirely necessary institutions providing the special knowledge and manual dexterity for the calling to be followed. Then there is the true University—a University with a capital "U," shall we say—to which a young man goes, not primarily to learn a trade or means of living, but to learn how to discipline, broaden and employ his faculties in the best possible way. One of the fundamental mistakes we may make in common with many others outside our calling is in harbouring the notion that all of us need, or can benefit from, this non-vocational period in our lives at this type of university, of which Oxford may stand as a convenient exemplar. No headmaster of a school expects or would in fact wish to see all his pupils pass out to this grade of human activity. But every headmaster, whether the pupil originates from cottage or castle would strain every effort to ensure that those among his pupils giving evidence of that particular cast of mind and intellectual outlook which for want of time and words I will term "a university type" shall benefit to the utmost from that imponderable benefit the university can give.

Now I am one of those who think the R.C.V.S. has given us vocationally, on the whole, a first-rate educational course. Of course it can be improved, of course it must change with the passage of time. But if it is as vocationalists pure and simple that we consider our course of training, then there is a lot to be said for the *status quo*. But if, employing a military parallel, we regard the vocationally trained veterinary surgeon as a trained tactician, how do we stand in regard to our veterinary strategists? I say at once this is where I detect weakness in our ranks. If we are to take and hold our rightful position among the learned professions in a comradeship of intellectual equality, we must so shape our course that the light in us shines before men with the intensity that we know it to possess. Someone with a waggish turn of mind has pointed out that the number of men available to this Association who can really be depended upon to defend its interests with the requisite statesmanship and knowledge of affairs, amounts to ·05 per cent. of our membership. You can work that out for yourselves!

The world looks to our universities to provide its leaders because our schools see to it that their potential best men pass through into the world by the university portal. Heaven forbid we become a profession of dons! But we do need a modicum of the finest brains—as does every calling that is both an art and a science. And the finest brains tend to pass us by because they are unaware of us and the full and noble life that we can offer.

Now, if the Loveday Report means anything to me it is that it has put its finger on this weakness and has shown us a way—one way—of remedying this defect. Therefore my chief criticism of the Loveday Report would be, not that it takes away this, that or the other, but that it offers too much! Surely the work of our forefathers and our own work in the daily round and common veterinary tasks has been and is, in the main, of first-class quality. To move our schools and their contents to within the walls of a *so-called* university, *i.e.*, university with a small "u," will not make much difference to the rank and file that it produces. But f we can so re-orient our attitude to the true University that we receive within our ranks from them our fair share of the finest brains, then at last we shall achieve the final pinnacle that will put us on an equal footing in the eyes of the world with the other learned callings. Believe me, we do need brains of the finest possible type to guide this Association successfully through the years ahead of us.

If so it be that the Loveday Report in its finally developed form can give us the benefits at which I have hinted then I

for one am prepared to sacrifice a good deal of my proper pride in our endogenous achievements and yield here a little, there a little, rather than see the report relegated for all time to a Ministerial pigeon-hole, due to some sentimental obduracy of a die-hard character on our part. At the moment there is a door held open to us for the attainment of something so terribly difficult to express in words. And doors held open to admit the traveller can also close to bar his progress.

And now for a brief reference to one or two domestic matters before I sit down. I want to pay my tribute to the energy and vision that the National Farmers' Union, now engaged in renewing its youth, has shown in matters that are common ground between us. Meetings held during my year of office have been conducted in a spirit that augurs well for the future. Also I would like on your behalf to recognise the selfless labours of a number of our members, older members in the main, who have given so much of their time and knowledge in contributing to our reports and handbooks, without fee and also anonymously. I hope the younger generation of our writers will see to it that this honourable tradition is carried on by them in the same selfless spirit.

You will shortly have sent you in a supplement of *The Veterinary Record* a full account of the proceedings in Parliament which we, in common with the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons, felt constrained to take against a Private Bill introduced by the People's Dispensary for Sick Animals. All that I wish to say in this matter is that the Association has always, and will always take the stand that dumb animals are entitled to the same degree of professional skill as is available to the human patient. How this can be achieved without the veterinary surgeon having access to every treatment centre, with the choice and control of what is to be done to the patient, is beyond my comprehension. More than once in public have I drawn the simple analogy that a general hospital run by the nursing profession without medical men in attendance would be unthinkable in the human sphere, and is even more so in the case of animals who are denied the boon of free choice in the matter; a fact which in turn implies an even higher degree of responsibility and the need of the highest and best in skill that is available. No one denies that the nursing and first-aid organisations, whether they are human or animal, can do, and in fact even now do, a noble and essential work. But there must be no cheese-paring or half-measures in this matter. The animal patient must have unobstructed access to the highest available skill, if the humanity which is so notable a feature of our national character is not to be debased to an unworthy level for such a cause.

Ladies and Gentlemen. It is our desire as a profession to serve agriculture with the sum of all our powers. Yet, with peace at our elbow, we cannot yet exert ourselves to the best purpose. Why? Because even now we do not know, or at any rate cannot be persuaded with certainty, whether agriculture is to return to its pre-war debility, remain in its present subsidised prosperity, or become the prime and protected industry of our islands, an industry able to pay its own as well as our way. If the first of these three conditions obtains, then we are bound to fail with the same paralysis. In the second case, the State which pays the piper will assuredly call the tune and we must dance to it. Only in the third case do I find a reasonable hope of a sturdy independence. For it will not be until agriculture is recognised by every shade of political opinion, as well as by those corporate bodies we call vested interests, to be the prime essential foundation of all industry in these islands, supporting a virile, contented, populous yeomanry, that we can hope to gain what we all seek. To rebuild our land upon any other foundation than this is indeed to build upon a quicksand. Let them pour out to the full their coal, their cotton, their motor cars and all the rest, into our home and export markets, but not at the expense and regardless of the soil and its workers. An all-party declaration to this effect would do more to put the farmer and his land in good heart than all the sylvan conferences held up to date. And if they are in good heart, then likewise so are we.

Tuberculosis of the Genitalia in Bovines and Its Implications

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The existence of primary tuberculosis of the mammary gland arising from irrigation of this organ without proper sterilisation of apparatus has shown the necessity for taking the utmost care to avoid transmitting infection. It is for this reason that the following observations are made in the hope that the reproductive system of the bovine will be more readily recognised as a dangerous source of tuberculous infection.

While fully appreciating that conditions may be different elsewhere, it is evident that in a country such as Cheshire, in which there is a high incidence of tuberculosis, genital infection with tubercle bacilli is probably far more common than is generally recognised. It has always surprised the author that, when so much has been written in latter years on infertility, reference to tuberculous infection of the genitalia has been scanty in spite of such findings as those of Steward[1]. In a series of 78 cases, in which samples of uterine discharge were examined by him, 24 were found to be positive for tubercle bacilli and in 19 of the positive cases there was during life no other definite evidence of tuberculosis. The unfortunate feature of the condition is the fact that in many cases there is little in the condition of the animal concerned to give rise to suspicion, although there may be a continued discharge of heavily infected material. It is regrettable that it was only after treating many hundreds of cows and heifers for infertility, that the incidence of uterine tuberculosis was fully appreciated by the writer, for at one time discharge was examined microscopically only from cases showing other symptoms suggestive of tuberculosis or gross changes in the uterus. At the present time, however, it has been found necessary to carry out such examination on every cow, however good its condition, that shows on rectal palpation uterine abnormality associated with any degree of ovarian bursitis. The type of discharge found in the vagina is of little indication, since tubercle bacilli have been found in samples showing any stage between slight turbidity and advanced purulence. Purulent material may vary from white to bright yellow, while in a recent case encountered, in which there was solely evidence of unilateral bursitis, the small purulent clots present in the mucus removed from the vagina, when smeared on a slide, had a distinctly caseous character.

During the last ten months tuberculous infection has been found during life in vaginal discharges, or on *post-mortem* examination in the genitalia, in 12 out of 128 cases examined by the writer for reported infertility (excluding cases showing oestral irregularities), and this proportion of 9 per cent. might well have been increased if more careful or repeated examinations had been carried out.

As these notes are meant, not as an analysis of genital tuberculosis, but rather as an appeal for recognition, the following case may be quoted as an example:—

Case 1.—A four-year-old Shorthorn cow purchased new-calved in October, 1943. The owner reported having seen "whites" in December and that she had failed to hold to service in January and February. When examined in April, she was found to have an almost custard-like vaginal discharge similar to that so often encountered following retention metritis. The uterus appeared normal on palpation but there was bilateral ovarian bursitis. Microscopical examination of the discharge showed the presence of large numbers of tubercle bacilli.

The interest of this case lies in the fact that this cow was in very good condition and no signs of tuberculosis could be demonstrated elsewhere in the body during life. Unfortunately a *post-mortem* examination could not be made, as the cow, not qualifying to be taken under the Tuberculosis Order, was graded for slaughter a month later, at which time the owner said she had become even fatter. Bearing in mind that the discharge reported the previous December was probably of the same origin, it will be noted that this cow excreted tubercle bacilli from her reproductive system for some four to five months, during which time she remained fat and showed no signs of any progression of infection affecting her health. A smear of the discharge showed tubercle bacilli in profusion; even more numerous than those encountered in the majority of sputum samples.

Such is the case as one encounters it during routine infertility treatment, but in addition it would be well to consider the possibly more serious condition of tuberculous abortion.

Here, again, the excretion of organisms in these cases is enormous and constitutes one of the most dangerous sources of infection to other animals, under certain circumstances to the veterinary surgeon, and perhaps to other animals *via* the veterinary surgeon and his equipment. Can it be denied, for instance, that the finger nails

might harbour considerable infection after delivering a tuberculous abortion or removing an infected placenta, and that infection might well be spread to another cow in which the cervix is subsequently examined manually during infertility treatment ?

On two occasions within the last two months the writer has spent up to half an hour struggling to deliver an eight-months foetus and only at the end of the procedure has any suspicion been aroused that it was a case of tuberculous abortion. However carefully the arms are greased or covered with obstetric protectives, after prolonged manipulation for dystokia there is little protection left, particularly over cuts or sores, on the operator's hands. It must be admitted that few of us would be keen to soak our hands in a nice warm dish of tubercle culture, and yet how often do practitioners nonchalantly, though no doubt unwittingly, take a bath in such material and then possibly repeat the process a few days later when called upon to " remove the cleansing " after a case of tuberculous abortion.

Where one is frequently called upon to deliver premature foetuses affected with brucellosis the case of tuberculous abortion may well not be recognised until after obstetrical interference has been completed in spite of careful observation of the patient. As evidence of this the following cases are quoted :—

Case 2.—A maiden shorthorn aborting an eight-months foetus and showing dystokia. This heifer was calved in a dark shippon by the light of a soot-covered storm-lamp and it was only the bright yellow colour of the placental cotyledons (not easily seen by lamp-light) which first gave rise to suspicion. In this case examination of the heifer showed other evidence suggestive of tuberculosis, but owing to the conditions existing, by the time confirmation had been obtained from a cotyledon smear, tuberculous material had been well splashed about the shed and obstetrical equipment had become infected.

Case 3.—A three-year-old black polled cow aborting an eight-months foetus and showing dystokia. This cow was in excellent condition and there was absolutely no reason whatsoever to suspect that this was any other than a case of brucella abortion. The fact that this cow had been immunised with *Br. abortus* vaccine called for examination of the foetus for confirmation of brucellosis, and, on opening the calf to take stomach and liver samples, the writer was amazed to find calcified tuberculous lesions in the portal lymphatic glands. Examination of the placental cotyledons showing at the vulva then revealed areas of a more intense yellow than those usually associated with brucellosis while on the amnion a few small nodular lesions were apparent.

It cannot be disputed that the ease with which a case such as this latter can be missed constitutes a real danger when such an animal is returned into the herd. Not only is heavily infected material being constantly dropped on to the ground or pasture but after retention of the placenta the hindquarters of the animal are often plastered with discharge. How easily tubercle bacilli may find their way into the milk bucket from here after the milker has spent some little time patting the cow on the rump to persuade her to move over.

These animals are a menace to the health of other stock, the veterinary practitioner, the farmer and the milk consumer, and yet, under certain circumstances, they may not be taken under the Tuberculosis Order.

It is hoped that a full report of the two above cases, with *post-mortem* findings in both cows and foetuses, will be recorded later.

Summary

(1) Tuberculosis of the reproductive system in which there is evacuation of heavily infected discharges may commonly occur in bovines which are otherwise apparently in good condition.

(2) Animals so affected may well be as dangerous as those affected with pulmonary tuberculosis in so far as spread of infection is concerned.

(3) In the treatment of infertility it is advisable to examine microscopically samples of uterine discharge from all cases showing bursitis or other evidence of adjacent peritoneal tuberculosis *before any treatment is attempted.*

(4) Examination of the aborted foetus should be carried out whenever possible, particularly where abortion has taken place in subjects that have been vaccinated against brucellosis. Abnormal colour or lesions on the placenta should be treated with suspicion. .

(5) *Adequate sterilisation of all instruments and equipment used for infertility treatment, artificial insemination and obstetrical work is of paramount importance.*

(6) *It is to be hoped that a review of the Tuberculosis Order with a view to including bovines affected with open tuberculosis of the reproductive system, even in the absence of further signs of tuberculosis, may be considered by responsible authority.*

Reference

[1]Steward, J. S. (1941.) *Vet. Rec.* **53.** 521.

THE VETERINARY RECORD

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THE 1944 N.V.M.A CONGRESS

THIS year's Annual General Meeting must not be adjudged by the shortness of its programme alone. It has become almost traditional in our affairs that most of what is vital is often done, as was done at the historic 1919 Annual General Meeting, when the programme is shortest. It was the war situation that unfortunately prevented the laying down of a very full programme this year. Those who were nevertheless present and are well acquainted with the vast amount of business now transacted by the Association can readily vouch that, had circumstances been different, a meeting would have been arranged at which the many problems now confronting members of the profession would have been well traversed.

Even though the meeting was curtailed almost to a minimum, those who were fortunate enough to participate in the proceedings could not help coming away gladdened with a sense of the vigour which the Association now possesses. This vigour derives in no small measure from the ability of its chosen representatives to conduct their affairs in full accord with what is best in the democratic tradition. The attainment of high office within the Association has now become a greatly coveted distinction, bestowed only after careful scrutiny of rival merits upon those felt best able to shoulder responsibility and retain the confidence of the majority.

The Annual General Meeting thus evidently expressed its pleasure at Council's choice of officers for the coming year. It had an opportunity, too, of expressing heartfelt gratitude to Major Hancock for the manner in which he had discharged his duties as President during the past year—with his customary dignity, grace, tact, and good judgment.

One of the most inspiring recollections was the spontaneity of the acclamation given to Mr. Bevan, the recipient of this year's Dalrymple-Champneys Cup and Medal. For he, by dint of persistent and hard labour in distant fields, had brought added lustre to the good name of Veterinary Surgeon in the world of research. It was a case of the labourer at last rewarded—and by his own people—the most genuine of all rewards!

Needless to say, the reception given by Major and Mrs. Hancock proved an unqualified success: their own natural generosity and geniality pervaded the gathering.

The highly controversial topic of the Second Loveday Report was debated at the Special Meeting of Council held next day with the talent and vigour that have now come to be associated to a remarkable degree with our gatherings. One could perhaps regret the absence from this meeting of several councillors whose experience would have been valuable. The business of the Council now makes such exacting demands on its members that it cannot afford much absenteeism, however involuntary. If we regret the absence of some of the elder councilmen, it is most encouraging to find that so many of the younger members are taking an increasing share in the work of the Association. Recruitment of young vigorous minds for the complex duties of serving on Council, promises well for the future work and worth of the Association. Comfort can now be derived, in any case, by the profession at large from the knowledge that no major theme escapes the salutary test

[*Elliott & Fry*

WM. C. MILLER, M.R.C.V.S., F.R.S.E.

President, National Veterinary Medical Association of Great Britain and Ireland, 1944-45

WILLIAM CHRISTOPHER MILLER,

M.R.C.V.S., F.R.S.E.

President, N.V.M.A., 1944-45

Our readers will recognise, in following this short biography of Professor W. C. Miller, that the Association has done itself timely honour in electing such a broadly trained man of the soil to be its president. In accepting office at this troublous period of professional evolution, Miller has again exemplified his enthusiasm for the profession and faith in its future.

As befits our senior professor of Animal Husbandry, William Christopher Miller is descended from a long line of true farming stock. At the time of his birth in 1898 his parents were farming in British Central Africa, now Nyasaland. The serious risk of blackwater fever and malaria at the end of the last century in that part of the world was responsible for his early departure to England. Probably the first recognition of that affection which he later inspired in all his friends and relations was afforded by the fact that his parents followed him in 1904 and took up farming in East Anglia. Although his official education was obtained at the Sudbury Grammar School, and at the Royal Grammar School, Colchester, his boyhood was thus grounded in a farming atmosphere.

He went to the Royal (Dick) Veterinary College in 1916 and qualified in 1919 at 21 years of age, having secured honours in his second, third and final professional examinations. His clinical ability was demonstrated by his appointment during his final year as House Surgeon, a post which he retained for a further year. Soon after graduation he was appointed lecturer in Zootechny, Animal Management, etc., and in 1921 he became lecturer in Veterinary Hygiene at the Edinburgh and East of Scotland College of Agriculture. Other posts which he held conjointly during this period were those of a veterinary inspector to the Ministry of Agriculture for the purposes of executive work under the Diseases of Animals Acts and under the Exportation of Horses Acts; later he became Deputy Assistant Inspector for the Port of Leith. During this early collegiate period he participated freely in the clinical and consultation work of the "Dick" College, and collaborated with the Director of the Rowett Research Institute in experiments concerned with poultry nutrition.

In 1928 Miller widened his experience by accepting a lectureship in Edinburgh University, which appointment he held at the Institute of Animal Genetics. His ability as a teacher was soon acknowledged by his promotion next year to a senior lectureship in charge of the department dealing with sheep and wool. For the next five years, in addition to his teaching duties, he carried out original researches in connection with inheritance. He published several papers in various agricultural journals and the journals of wool technology, and one in the *Proceedings of the Royal Society* on Hormone work and the development of a test for Equine Pregnancy Diagnosis. At the same time he supervised the work of some dozen post-graduate students working for various doctorates. In 1930 he was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh.

During this university period Miller maintained lively connections with the veterinary profession. He gave courses of lectures on applied genetics to third year students at the "Dick" and another series to B.Sc. students in agriculture and veterinary science.

In 1935 Miller was selected as the first occupant of the Courtauld Chair of Animal Husbandry at the Royal Veterinary College. Since that time he has been slowly developing the department under the very serious handicaps of inadequate staffing, negligible equipment and no field station. Nevertheless, despite these difficulties, the emphasis of the course was transferred to the living farm animal, and animal husbandry has been taught with as practical a bias as possible; a fact greatly appreciated by his students.

In addition to his numerous original papers, Miller has found time to edit a "Veterinary Dictionary" and, in collaboration with Robertson, a text-book on "Practical Animal Husbandry." The success of these works is exemplified by the fact that the fourth edition of the husbandry book is now in the press and the third edition of the dictionary is in preparation.

Despite the heavy calls of his teaching and writing duties Miller has found time to examine. During his appointment at the University of Edinburgh he acted as examiner for the R.C.V.S. in animal management. He has also examined at various times for the Universities of Cambridge, Reading and Aberdeen.

With all his other ties Miller might have been excused from active participation in N.V.M.A. affairs, but no—as in other things he gave all to his profession. Early in his Edinburgh career he became Secretary of the Scottish Metropolitan Division and later Secretary of the Scottish Branch from about 1925 to 1934. It was during this period that the Scottish Branch became active and established its present standard of virility. He helped with the launching of propaganda for the eradication of bovine tuberculosis and materially assisted with the compilation of the widely circulated pamphlet "A scheme for the eradication of tuberculosis." On his transfer to London Miller joined the Editorial Committee, of which he has since continuously been a valued member. Later he joined various other Committees and has actively participated in the compilation of several N.V.M.A. reports, such as the Report on the Colonial Veterinary Service, the reports on Meat and on The Production of Meat and Milk, several of the reports of the Survey Committee (this Committee was really christened by Miller) and that on Farm Buildings. He has been a member of various delegations to Ministries, the National Farmers' Union, etc. He has represented the N.V.M.A. on the Parliamentary and Scientific Committee. For many years he has been an active member of The Veterinary Research Club and was its president last year. He is an original member of the Nutrition Society and of the British Society for Animal Production.

In 1939 the profession showed its confidence in Miller by electing him to be a councillor of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons. His outside contacts have included membership of various departmental committees, including the Standing Committee on Animal Health of the Colonial Office for the last six years, and latterly on the Supervisory and the Central Advisory Committees on Artificial Insemination of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

Full of promise, a younger Miller married Margaret Munro, daughter of the Rev. J. M. Munro, Minister of St. Colomba's Highland Church, Glasgow. Fortunately for the profession, Mrs. Miller has all those qualities of charm, patience and encouragement which go to the making of an N.V.M.A. grass-widow and President's wife. They have two sons, Warden and Peter, both at school.

By his professional colleagues and students Professor Miller is appreciated as a sound teacher and counsellor, a worker of immense capacity, a man of happy, courteous disposition and modest manner, a loyal and generous friend, and, above all, an enthusiast for his profession. With him as its president we may rest assured that the National Veterinary Medical Association will go forward on even keel. We wish him a happy and successful term of office.

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of good and searching criticism before it is launched forth upon them for acceptance.

It was a pleasure to witness the presence of several of our American and other Allies at the Annual General Meeting.

It only remains to express a vow, on behalf of the members of the Association at large, to the incoming President, Professor Miller, to stand by him, one and all, in his endeavours to promote our best interests directed to the service of the public. May his term of office be marked with the return of peace in the world, and the happy uplifting of our profession to still higher standards of service for the common good.

The President's Reception

The reception held by the President and Mrs. Hancock at the Waldorf Hotel on the evening of Thursday, October 19th, was attended by nearly 200 members and other guests, with their ladies. Held, as it was, a little later in the programme than usual, the reception fulfilled the more adequately its role as an opportunity of "getting together," and the very happy time which was spent was especially appreciated in the unavoidable absence of other customary social features of the Annual General Meeting.

An Instructive Address

Following the luncheon adjournment of the special meeting of Council, N.V.M.A., held at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine on Friday, October 20th, the members heard an instructive address by Mr. J. O. Powley upon the general subject of the importance of personal disinfection in veterinary practice. The Association's thanks were voiced by the President and Mr. Steele-Bodger to Mr. Powley for his address, which is being published in the supplement issued to members with this number of *The Veterinary Record.*

National Veterinary Medical Association of Great Britain and Ireland

SIXTY-SECOND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Professor Wm. C. Miller, Elected President

The Sixty-second Annual General Meeting of the Association was held in the Connaught Rooms, Great Queen Street, Kingsway, London, W.C.2, on Thursday, October 19th, 1944, at 12 noon, with the President, Mr. R. C. G. Hancock, B.Sc., M.R.C.V.S., in the chair.

The attendance book was signed by the following: Mr. R. C. G. Hancock (President) and Mrs. Hancock, Messrs. L. Guy Anderson, R. M. Arnold, W. F. Aston, Major M. T. Badger (U.S.A.), Messrs. D. V. Balls, J. R. Barker, Captain L. D. Barnes (U.S.A.), Dr. N. S. Barron, Mr. P. D. Baylis, Lieutenant M. E. Becker, Mr. Ll. E. W. Bevan, Miss M. L. Bingham, Mr. J. D. Blaxland, Professor T. J. Bosworth, Miss W. M. Brancker, Messrs. J. W. Bruford, R. R. Bugg, H. E. Bywater (Hon. Treasurer), H. S. Caldwell, E. R. Callender, F. Chambers, E. R. Corrigall, P. Crosfield, Captain F. D. Daughtrey (U.S.A.), Messrs. R. M. Davidson, A. A. Donnelly, K. D. Downham, T. M. Doyle, J. J. Dunlop, H. Scott Dunn, T. A. Elam, Dr. J. T. Edwards, Mr. S. J. Edwards, Miss M. J. Farman, Captain J. S. Ferbey (U.S.A.), Messrs. K. A. Forker, A. A. Forsyth, F. Francis, Miss M. J. Freak, Mr. T. E. Gibson, Mr. and Mrs. R. E. Glover, Mr. L. St. Bel Golledge, Dr. W. S. Gordon, Mr. and Mrs. G. N. Gould, Messrs. P. N. H. Grant, R. W. Hall, W. W. Harkins (U.S.A.), J. B. Harmer, P. Harnett, H. R. Hewetson, T. Hicks, J. Campbell Hill, S. F. J. Hodgman, Miss D. Howell, Mr. W. J. Ironside, Dr. J. R. M. Innes, Messrs. S. Jennings, S. E. Johnson (U.S.A.), H. Llewelyn Jones, T. H. Jones, Miss J. O. Joshua, Messrs. A. B. Kasurina (U.S.A.), E. Kaufman, Mrs. K. G. R. Kelly, Major Hamilton Kirk, Captain W. R. Kirvin (U.S.A.), Captain S. M. Krukowski (U.S.A.), Messrs. W. W. Lang, T. Lishman, R. M. Loosmore, Dr. R. Lovell, Messrs. E. K. H. Lustig-Lendva, E. F. McCleery, Professor J. McCunn, Messrs. W. R. McKinna, J. A. McKinnon, G. P. Male, Major M. M. Mason (U.S.A.), Mr. H. T. Matthews, Lieutenant W. W. Matthews (U.S.A.), Major R. B. Meeke (U.S.A.), Major A. M. Michaels (U.S.A.), Professor Miller (Vice-President) and Mrs. Wm. C. Miller, Mr. T. M. Mitchell, Professor W. M. Mitchell, Mr. C. T. Murphy, Sir Arthur Olver, Messrs. C. W. Ottaway, H. B. Parry, J. D. Peele, Major D. H. Perella (U.S.A.), Messrs. W. A. Pool, J. O. Powley, J. Deans Rankin, Lieutenant-Colonel Graham Rees-Mogg, Lieutenant-Colonel H. A. Reid, Mr. H. J. Robertson (U.S.A.), Lieutenant-Colonel R. J. Robertson (U.S.A.), Captain J. J. Salt (U.S.A.), Captain M. G. Schmidt (U.S.A.), Messrs. N. J. Scorgie, H. H. Skinner, H. W. Smith, Mrs. K. M. M. Smith, Messrs. J. J. M. Soutar, D. N. Spriggs, Dr. A. W. Stableforth, Mr. and Mrs. H. W. Steele-Bodger, Messrs. J. S. Steward, D. L. Stewart, John Stewart, P. L. Stewart (U.S.A.), W. Lyle Stewart, T. R. Thomas, Alex. Thomson (Beckenham), H. Thornton, Miss Tillemont-Thomason, Messrs. A. J. True, Wm. Tweed, Miss O. Uvarov, Lieutenant R. D. Vickers (U.S.A.), Messrs. R. W. A. Watchorn, A. H. Watson, Miss M. H. Weddell, Dr. E. G. White, Messrs. J. D. Whitty, E. Wilkinson, G. A. Willis, A. R. Withers, Professor and Mrs. G. H. Wooldridge, Flt.-Lt. R. L. Wooldridge, Dr. W. R. Wooldridge (Vice-President), Messrs. A. N. Worden, W. H. Wortley, W. G. Wragg (Hon. Secretary) and T. L. Wright.

Following is list of apologies for absence: Messrs. A. J. Adams, D. J. Anthony, John Barr, Professor G. F. Boddie, Messrs. J. N. Bowen, John Cameron, B. A. Claxton, Brennan DeVine, Lieutenant-Colonel J. A. Dixon, Mr. T. A. Dobie, Professor J. W. Emslie, Messrs. Arthur Gofton, C. R. Golledge, Dr. Tom Hare, Mrs. M. L. Harris, Professor W. Kearney, Dr. H. G. Lamont, Messrs. J. W. McIntosh, S. J. Motton, L. E. Perkins, D. S. Rabagliati, E. Brayley Reynolds, Lieutenant-Colonel P. J. Simpson, Mr. R. H. Smythe, Dr. A. Robertson, Mr. A. Thomson (Glasgow), Dr. P. S. Watts, Messrs. C. Weighton, A. J. Wright.

The President: It is a very great pleasure for me to welcome so large an assembly to this annual general meeting. Owing to the circumstances prevailing at the time the arrangements had to be made we decided to hold a meeting at which the business could be got through as quickly as possible. I am sure our American and Colonial friends will understand that learned papers and demonstrations have had to take second place to the outstanding political discussions.

It has been possible to arrange a little entertainment and I hope you will all attend the Reception to be held this evening.

Welcome to Foreign and Colonial Delegates

After the Secretary (Mr. F. Knight) had read the notice convening the meeting, the President: I have to welcome on your behalf our distinguished foreign and colonial visitors. It is a matter of great satisfaction in the past few years that we have had such a strong contingent of our American friends at our meetings and although in one sense we hope that the necessity for their presence will not arise another year, in another sense we hope that this interchange of easy travel which is becoming more and more obvious will mean that we shall not only continue to meet here in peace-time but that representatives will be able to fly the Atlantic and attend one another's annual conferences as occasion arises. If the war has done nothing else, it has done a great deal of good to our profession in the larger sense if it has achieved that.

I also wish to include in the welcome our Colonial friends and to say how pleased we are to see them. In the name of the members I cordially welcome our visitors.

Presidential Address

The President now gave his Address from the chair, it being heard with great appreciation and warmly applauded. [The President took as his theme "Post-war Problems as they Concern the Veterinary Profession," and his Address is reproduced at the commencement of this issue of *The Veterinary Record*.]

Professor W. C. Miller: It is the privilege of the occupier of the Presidential Chair to read a Presidential Address to the Annual General Meeting. It is your privilege to listen to it and not to indulge in any discussion. It is my privilege to ask you to accord to the President a very hearty vote of thanks for what, I think you will all agree, is a most thoughtful, suggestive and erudite address. I think you will probably entirely agree with me that there is much to provoke thought in it for us in the profession and also for those who are higher up who guide the destinies of this country through various Government and other departments.

The vote of thanks was accorded by applause and the meeting adjourned for lunch.

Annual Report and Balance Sheet

The President moved the reception of the Annual Report and Balance Sheet, and the Auditor's Certificate was read.

Mr. R. E. Glover: Arising out of the Annual Report and Balance Sheet may I refer to the motion moved and carried at the last Ordinary Meeting with regard to the changes of the Articles of Association which are mentioned in the Report? The Sub-committee appointed last year under the chairmanship of Mr. Lishman has given careful consideration to the dictate and I think the Council has been wise in remitting its report to the Divisions. I am sure it will be of considerable assistance to the Association if the Divisions will consider the suggestions made by the Committee with great care and send back to the parent body constructive criticisms of the proposals.

The President moved the adoption of the Report and Balance Sheet and the motion was seconded and carried.

Dalrymple-Champneys Cup Presentation

The President: I have the very pleasant duty to perform of presenting the cup, the gift of Sir Weldon and Lady Dalrymple-Champneys, to Mr. Ll. E. W. Bevan, a member of our profession whom we are delighted to honour. Mr. Bevan suffers from considerable modesty and what he has done abroad is not so well known here as it should be, except to the specialists.

Mr. Bevan qualified in 1904 and spent the best part of his career in Southern Rhodesia. His work on trypanosomiasis has brought him his highest qualifications and he has gained great distinction in that work. He was the first to discover that a disease indistinguishable from undulant fever was transmissible to man from cattle—not goat—origins and he showed that such cattle were infected with *Brucella abortus*, an important discovery for which adequate recognition has not been given to him. He was one of the pioneers in reducing horse sickness by making use of a live vaccine attenuated for equines by dog passage and he reduced the local mortality from horse sickness in S. Rhodesia from 95 per cent. to 10 per cent., which is a great achievement in itself.

He has done distinguished work in the field of tropical redwater where he has succeeded in pre-immunising young imported stock, dangerous reactions being controlled by trypanblue. This was in advance of its use by Theiler and other workers and enabled the cattle industry to be established where before it was on shaky foundations. He developed a method of immunisation against foot-and-mouth disease by intra-nasal instillation of suitable strains of live virus which has proved eminently successful. He was credited by the late Sir Andrew Balfour and Professor Metchnikoff with being the first to use arsenic in the treatment of spirochaete infection. All his work shows that little something which is quite rare in this world—originality and inspiration—which is so badly needed in research of

this type. We are very fortunate to have within our ranks a man who has done work of this quality.

Mr. Bevan, I have very great pleasure in presenting you with this Cup and I condole with you in that you have to travel home with it to-night. (Applause.)

Mr. Ll. E. W. Bevan: I am afraid I cannot adequately express my gratitude for the great honour that you have conferred upon me in my old age. I would, first of all, like to thank Lady Dalrymple-Champneys for her gracious gift to this profession and Sir Weldon for the constant interest he takes in our affairs. This is not the first time Sir Weldon has befriended me; he has frequently assisted me in my work, particularly in connection with work on contagious abortion, and he has helped me in times of stress to seek employment.

I should like to thank the President for the kindly words he has said about me. I am afraid I do not deserve them. I should like to thank the Committee which so kindly selected me for this great honour, and, ladies and gentlemen, I should like to thank you for the kindly way in which you have accepted this astonishing selection. It is astonishing, because I am quite aware of my limitations and imperfections. I can only claim to have done my best under the conditions which obtained.

With your permission I should like to regard this trophy as a tribute to the old pioneers, the dwindling band of pioneers who, with their microscopes and paraphernalia attached to their saddles, rode out into the unknown to practice and to preach the science and art of veterinary surgery, medicine and research. The President spoke in his Address of the colonial workers and I think it will be an encouragement to them to feel that one of the oldest of them has been recognised in this way. I think it will help them to know that their efforts are not always overlooked.

Election of President for 1944-45

The President: The Council's nomination is unanimous and I place before you the name of Professor W. C. Miller as President of the Association. (Applause.) I cannot imagine anybody who I would rather have follow me. During my year of office he has been a most charming and hard-working colleague, the model of what a Vice-President should be, and it is with the greatest possible pleasure that I put his name before you.

The proposal was carried unanimously.

Professor Miller: I am exceedingly conscious of the great honour which you have done me in electing me President. I am probably being sympathised with at the present time by those of you in this room who have been in the position in which I am now. The Past-Presidents in the room will, I am sure, have every sympathy for a person who is at the beginning and will show that sympathy by assisting in every way they can those difficult moments which occur to everyone who takes on a position of this nature for the first time.

I have no illusions regarding the work and the heavy responsibilities which fall to the lot of the person in the chair of this Association. I have seen enough of it to appreciate that it is in no light frame of mind that anyone can ever undertake this duty, and it would be right to say that at the present time the difficulties are no less than they have been in the past. I think you will all agree that the Association is intensely alive at the moment and that augurs well for its future. Any Association in which the members become passive, and the business easy and where an air of *laisser faire* prevails is doomed not to make progress.

The history of this Association shows that the argument, the divergence of views which are expressed, we might even call it squabbling which occurs at times, have, on the whole, been useful. I think it is probably right to say that looking back for a moment at the immediate and more distant past, the right decisions have almost invariably been made. At times when difficulties arose, considerable perturbation exercised the minds of the members of the Association, but eventually proper decisions were arrived at which were for the good of the Association in the long run. I think that with the spirit which now prevails we can believe that the same decisions will be reached in the future.

I should like to be a little personal and to say that your choice will be very unpopular with one person—my wife. Already to some extent, like other wives of those who have tried to do something for this Association, she has been sacrificed for the sake of the work. I say that seriously because I do feel that the ladies, our wives in the veterinary profession, do not get that share of credit which is due to them for all that they have to put up with. There is hardly any other body of men whose lives are so erratic as the lives of veterinary surgeons!

I hope you will not take the brevity of my remarks as an indication in direct ratio of the measure of my sincerity, otherwise I shall have to speak for a long time. May I thank you most sincerely for having elected me President for this next year and, in conclusion, may I say that if I can carry out the work half as well as some of those who have preceded me I shall be satisfied. (Applause.)

Election of Other Officers

Vice-Presidents.—The President moved, Mr. Jennings seconded, and it was agreed that Mr. R. C. G. Hancock and Mr. George Gould, of Southampton, be elected Vice-Presidents.

Mr. G. N. Gould: I thank you for the honour you have conferred upon me in electing me Vice-President and President-Elect of this Association. I shall do my best to serve the true interests of the profession during my two years of office.

Honorary Treasurer.—The President: I have great pleasure in moving from the chair that our "old chronic" among the officers be re-elected. We could not have a better Treasurer than we have at the moment. One of my great regrets in leaving the chair is that I shall not be able to share in the reflected glory of next year's Balance Sheet. I formally propose that Mr. H. E. Bywater be re-elected Honorary Treasurer.

Mr. Lang seconded and this also was agreed.

Honorary Secretary.—The President proposed that Mr. T. L. Wright, of Putney, be elected Honorary Secretary.

Dr. W. R. Wooldridge seconded and it was carried.

Mr. Wright made a brief acknowledgment.

The President: I would like very much to be your mouthpiece in thanking Mr. Wragg for his very great services as Honorary Secretary to this Association. I have known Mr. Wragg since the days when my father and I used to drive down to Alperton with a *post-mortem* specimen and there was always Wragg to give us good advice and make smears for us and do all the abhorrent things which we had to do as Ministry agents. He was the very first member of the staff of the Ministry I encountered and I have the kindest memories of him when I was a boy. I thank him on your behalf for the services he has rendered to the Association.

General Secretary.—The President: The re-election of our General Secretary is a foregone conclusion. He goes from strength to strength every year and no one could wish for a more efficient and genial Secretary. I formally move that Mr. Knight be re-elected.

Mr. W. Caldwell seconded, and it was carried unanimously and with applause.

Mr. F. Knight, in acknowledgment, said that he took his re-election not only as a compliment to himself but also to the other members of the staff.

Auditors.—The President moved that Messrs. Fairbairn, Wingfield & Wykes be re-elected auditors for the ensuing year. The Hon. Treasurer seconded and it was agreed.

Mr. R. E. Glover: On a point of order, the remaining items on the agenda are concerned with the domestic affairs of the Association. I would therefore ask the President for a ruling as to whether the visitors should remain for the rest of the proceedings.

Dr. W. R. Wooldridge: No one appreciates the legality of Mr. Glover's remark more than I do, but I do not think we should let the correctness of procedure lead us to be so ungracious as to ask our visitors to withdraw from this meeting. Particularly do I say that in view of the last items on the agenda. It has been the custom in this Association that such functions as the induction of the new President should be carried out in the presence of visitors and I would like to move that we proceed with the business of the meeting in the presence of the visitors if they wish to remain.

Mr. H. W. Steele-Bodger: I would like to support that, although I think Mr. Glover was right in raising the matter.

The President: If I may rule on that point of order, it is that we continue as we are.

Motions

Mr. L. G. Anderson: I beg to move:—

"That the ruling of the Great Yarmouth Conference, 1939, that:—

'Editorials on questions of policy which are likely to be of major or vital importance to the profession should not be published before the Council of the N.V.M.A. has had an opportunity to consider them. A decision as to whether a given question falls in the category under consideration should be made by the Finance and General Purposes Committee, and this same Committee should decide whether the question is of sufficient urgency to warrant a special meeting of the Council,' has had the effect of devitalising the Editorial Committee in the production of leading articles. In this way the *Record* is forced to fail in what should be its major function—expressing the views of the profession on topical subjects, at a time when such an expression of its views is necessary—and that therefore that ruling should be reconsidered."

This is a very long motion which sounds very heavy but I do not think it is one which requires a very long speech. Perhaps I should explain why it comes before you in the name of an individual rather than as a recommendation from a Committee or more properly still from Council.

This question was taken up quite recently within the Editorial Committee and the majority supported the motion, but in order to make a recommendation to Council notice of motion should have been given to the Committee and to the Council later and then the Council would have had to give notice of motion to this meeting. There was not time to go through all that procedure so I gave notice of motion personally and while it is true that the majority of my Committee supported me in this, it is a personal motion and the Committee members are at liberty to express any views they see fit either for or against it.

The position is fairly straightforward. *The Veterinary Record* is the only official organ of the profession in this country, the only organ qualified to express the views of the profession, and it may be read by our own members and by outsiders. Under these circumstances it seems to me rather obvious that the chief function of the *Record* should not be merely to report proceedings and to publish clinical or scientific articles but to lead in thought our own members and to give some ideas to outsiders as to what we are thinking.

Quite obviously if we are to do that, if we are to express important views and if those views are to carry weight they must be expressed when the time is most appropriate, not after many months of waiting and passing through various committees. As things stand at the moment, although I am Chairman of the Editorial Committee, I will confess to you quite frankly that I consider that that Committee fails very dismally in its duty. Editorials, to my mind, on matters of important policy fall into three classes. The first, and perhaps the largest, is the class which is not published at all. The second is the class which is so emasculated that it is quite worthless when it appears in print, and the third is the class which appears so belatedly that by the time it is published nobody has any interest in it.

That is rather an unfortunate position. The Editorial Committee is quite representative, it contains members from the different branches of professional activity and also—and this is a point I would stress—*ex officio* all the officers of the Association are automatically members of that Committee. It is a Committee of Council appointed for a specific purpose to edit *The Veterinary Record* and it seems to me to be a ridiculous position for the Council to appoint a Committee to do a specific job and then tell another Committee that they must oversee it and decide whether the full Council should give the first Committee permission to do its job.

I am not sure whether this profession wishes the National Veterinary Medical Association to have any policy. According to this ruling we are not allowed to publish any, or not very specifically; according to the debate in Council this morning, the officers of the Association are not intended to have any. I am not certain of this and I feel it needs clarification.

I will give you a specific example. The second report of the Loveday Committee has been before us for a good many months. Naturally the members of the profession look to the *Record* for some lead on the matter. Outside bodies look to *The Veterinary Record* to find out what the profession is thinking about it. What has *The Veterinary Record* done about it? Nothing. *The Lancet* has published articles on it, *Nature* has published articles, but our own paper has not even mentioned it because we dare not, because we have to wait for Council to discuss it and tell us what to do.

I am not certain just what action we should take but the Committee is appointed for a specific purpose and should be given reasonable powers. If the Council feels that the Editorial Committee is not doing its job or is not doing it properly then it should be scrapped and a new one appointed. But do not appoint one Committee to do the job and then ask another to see that it does it. I am asking that the earlier resolution shall be reconsidered so that the Editorial Committee can have greater powers to do its work more efficiently.

Dr. A. W. Stableforth: As the Chairman of the Editorial Committee last year I should like to second the motion. Mr. Anderson has put the position very clearly. It is not that the Committee wishes to force a policy on the members, it is that they want to take things up at the time and pass comment on them which may stimulate thought and discussion. If something is published which is not acceptable to members it can always be corrected or commented on by correspondence. I do want you to appreciate that this ruling puts the Committee into a very unhappy position. They are not able to put matters before the profession which should be put before them whilst they are topical.

Mr. R. E. Glover: Although I find myself in agreement with much of what Mr. Anderson has said, I rise to oppose his resolution. I am sure that it is the desire of all members of the Association to see in *The Veterinary Record* a progressive journal and I am in full sympathy with the plea for the publication of considered editorials on policy. I disagree, however, with Mr. Anderson that the Editorial Committee has been prevented from preparing any reasonable editorial article. In my view, during the past three years many editorials have been published which are a credit to the profession.

I would point out to members that comment appearing in the Editorial columns is supposed to represent the views of the Association. Where matters of major policy arise it is advisable that the Committee should be guided by Council which alone is in a position to ascertain the views of the members before committing the Association to a given policy. The Yarmouth resolution was brought forward with the express purpose of vesting this power in the hands of Council. This is a matter fundamental to the future of the Association. It is neither wise nor fair to expect the Editorial Committee to undertake the responsibility of making editorial comment which to some extent may bind the Association. Outside bodies read these editorials and naturally consider them to represent the views of the Association.

The Editorial Committee meets once a month, its agenda is usually very long, and editorials, for reasons beyond the control of the Chairman, are often brought forward at the end of the meeting when only a few members may remain to discuss them. Under these conditions a decision on the publication of an important article may rest in the hands of a minority gathering.

I am certain that the Committee is ready to prepare articles on current topics at any time. The present procedure based on the Yarmouth resolution gives us a measure of protection against premature publication. If the existing machinery is properly used, there is no reason why editorials on major issues should not be published whenever the need arises. For this reason I am opposing the motion.

Professor G. H. Wooldridge: I agree with Mr. Glover; it would be wrong to rest the question of the policy of this Association in the hands of an Editorial Committee. That responsibility is vested in the Council and they should retain that responsibility. I think the Editorial Committee is unwise in asking that such a responsibility should be placed upon them. Dr. Stableforth's suggestion that it could be put right in the correspondence columns is unworthy; he knows that it is the editorial which counts and not letters to the editor.

The matter was considered in all its aspects at Great Yarmouth when this resolution was passed and I feel certain that there is no reason to alter that resolution.

Mr. H. W. Steele-Bodger: I should like to suggest an amendment. When this resolution was passed at the Great Yarmouth Congress I, as the then Chairman of the Editorial Committee, spoke against it. It will surprise members that such a resolution should have arisen following my year as Chairman of the Editorial Committee but as President and subsequently as an officer of the Association I have always loyally adhered to that decision even against my better judgment. It is a crippling resolution. I have great sympathy with Mr. Anderson and the Editorial Committee. On the other hand I agree with Mr. Glover and subsequent speakers that the Association should have some measure of control over editorials. The crux of the matter was the editorials written on the first Loveday Report, drafted by Dr. Edwards and then extensively altered by the Committee so that they became the Committee's editorials.

I would suggest that this resolution might be re-worded as follows and I will move accordingly:—

> "Editorials on questions of policy which are likely to be of major or vital importance to the profession should not be published before the Finance and General Purposes Committee of the N.V.M.A. has had an opportunity to consider them. A decision as to whether a given question falls into the category under consideration should be made by the officers of the Association, and they should decide whether the question is of sufficient urgency to warrant a special meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee."

I suggest that as an equitable compromise. The Finance and General Purposes Committee includes the Chairman of all the Standing Committees of the Association, the officers of the Association and other independent members. The Council of the Association is a large body to call together at short notice.

Mr. H. T. Matthews: I should like to second that amendment. I sympathise very much with Mr. Anderson in his difficulties as Chairman of the Editorial Committee. One can foresee some conflict in the immediate future which must require comment in the *Record* but to take a longer view we are going to have more serious questions to consider than whether our students are to be examined by a panel appointed by the R.C.V.S. or by the universities. We shall have much more important questions than that before us and for that reason I think Mr. Steele-Bodger's compromise is reasonable and provides the necessary safeguard.

Dr. Stableforth: We have not suggested that the Editorial Committee should be the policy committee of the Association and because I think the compromise which Mr. Steele-Bodger has suggested is a good one I would be willing to support it if Mr. Anderson thinks fit.

Mr. Anderson: This is a point of order. My resolution is not that the Great Yarmouth motion should be rescinded but should be reconsidered. I think Mr. Steele-Bodger's suggested amendment is in the nature of an additional proposal, and I do not think it is quite fair to accept it as an amendment.

Mr. Steele-Bodger: I accept that. I assumed if it was to be reconsidered it would have to be as a direct negative in the first place and that subject to that amendments would be received.

Dr. W. R. Wooldridge: I rise to support the resolution and to emphasise the fact pointed out by Mr. Anderson, that it is not the rescinding of this motion which is envisaged. What the Chairman of the Editorial Committee has brought to our notice is that this motion, as it stands, prevents the Editorial Committee from commenting in any way upon anything concerned with policy. I will agree with Professor Wooldridge that it would be quite wrong for the Editorial Committee to commit the Association, but I disagree with him entirely if he intended to imply that the Editorial Committee should not make any comment on matters of policy.

Reference has been made to the Loveday Report. I feel it is a pity that the Editorial Committee was not allowed to bring out very clearly that there are vast differences of opinion within the profession upon certain recommendations of the Report. I would disagree wholeheartedly with those who would have tried, perhaps, to commit the Association to accepting or rejecting entirely that Committee's report. I would support the resolution put forward by Mr. Anderson, but I would not go so far at this juncture as the proposition suggested by Mr. Steele-Bodger.

If this resolution is adopted our next step should be to refer this matter to a joint meeting of the Editorial Committee and the Finance and General Purposes Committee so that they can make their recommendations to Council and we should abide by whatever decision Council then made.

The weakness of the Great Yarmouth resolution arises not from its intentions, but because it was brought forward without prior consideration. There was no notice of motion on the agenda paper, it just came up before the meeting and was carried without the consideration which such a resolution merits. I do not think the wishes of the framers of the resolution will suffer in any way if it is now given full and adequate consideration.

Dr. J. T. Edwards: I would like to support the views expressed by Mr. Glover and Professor Wooldridge. I have been deeply interested in *The Veterinary Record* from the time the "National" took it over in 1919 and with the help of Professor Buxton produced its first numbers. Those were days of great anxiety, material was scarce, the Committee was hard to bring together. Since those days we have seen the *Record* gathering strength and this has been so, I believe, very largely because it has endeavoured to keep in touch with the feelings of the great mass of the profession. We who are intimately concerned with the production of the *Record* are anxious to retain its vitality by all possible means and I, for one, do not see that the Great Yarmouth resolution encumbers that vitality.

I believe the Great Yarmouth resolution was a wise one for the reasons which Mr. Glover has put before you. It would be most unwise for this large and representative Association to leave matters of policy to a small committee. Its policy must be dictated by the wishes of the individual members of the Association scattered far and wide throughout the country and expressing their views through their Divisions and through their representatives on the Council who will give orders in regard to the formulation of policy. Other than policy there is nothing to prevent us displaying views and news in the *Record* to the best of our ability.

When the 1938 Loveday Report came up for analysis the Editorial Committee gathered from its Chairman that it had a clear mandate from the Council to proceed with it, and some of us on the Editorial Committee felt we should wait for a mandate from the Council before proceeding with the second Report. The medical profession, with its two great weekly journals, the *British Medical Journal* and the *Lancet*, are in the fortunate position of having two rival yet friendly journals to balance each other. The very source of our strength in having the only journal of our profession within the possession of the Association is a source of weakness in that there is no criticism from a rival journal. Some older men apprehended this in 1919, when the Association was refloated on its present footing. Those of us who have witnessed the growth of this Association with great satisfaction since the days of its inception have recognised the need for restraint. I believe the Great Yarmouth resolution has prevented abuse of powers by a small committee which might lead to the embarrassment of the whole Association and of the profession. I therefore oppose the motion which has been brought forward by Mr. Anderson.

Major H. Kirk: As a Past-Chairman of the Editorial Committee I have great sympathy with the present Chairman. The Editorial Committee is not by any means a small one but I should say that 20 members is rather a large committee, composed too of men specially selected for the purpose, and guided and supported by the officers of the Association. You have appointed this committee for a special purpose, namely to conduct the issue of the official journal. If you have confidence in it then for goodness sake why not allow it to function normally without so much supervision from another committee composed of no better men? Some years ago there was a movement to appoint a superman to shoulder the whole responsibility; but it was thought wiser to have a committee. Now, we find this committee must be supervised by a further committee and possibly both of them by the whole Council; so that soon we might envisage the calling of a General Meeting to decide what shall be published. Topical matters must be dealt with at once to be of any value, and I—like Mr. Anderson—resent the impedance of the committee in this way.

After all, Mr. Anderson is only asking that the whole matter should be reviewed, and I think this Annual General Meeting should accede to that request without demur.

Professor T. J. Bosworth: I suggest that Mr. Anderson's motion should be resisted. I have served on the Editorial Committee and my experience has convinced me of the extreme necessity for the Yarmouth resolution. It has prevented a precipitate declaration of policy on several important matters: there have been occasions on which the resolution has been ignored but in the main it has been observed and with beneficial effects.

I am not under any delusion as to the fitness of myself and my fellow members of the Editorial Committee to decide upon matters of policy on behalf of the Association. They are selected in order to run a journal and not to express opinions on questions of policy which, as Dr. Edwards has so rightly said are liable to commit the Association in the way in which anything stated in an editorial article is bound to do unless care is exercised in the type of comment made.

The President: Can we distinguish between decisions on policy and comment on policy?

Professor Bosworth: The point is the type of comment made. I feel it not unreasonable to ask, where a question of policy is concerned, that the matter be referred to the Finance and General Purposes Committee in the first instance and to the Council if that Committee thinks it necessary, which will be very seldom. The method is a check or safeguard upon what might be precipitate action on the part of the Editorial Committee. There is so much business to be got through by that Committee that towards the end of its meetings the attendance is sometimes extremely thin and I can visualise a situation arising in which half a dozen members, perhaps not more than one or two of whom are members of Council, might pass an editorial article which would commit the Association in a way which would afterwards be regretted.

Mr. N. J. Scorgie: I would like to support the motion by Mr. Anderson and to endorse Mr. Steele-Bodger's suggestion. I can see that it is cumbersome to refer matters to the whole Council. On the other hand, I do feel that some check should be placed on the expression of opinion on matters of policy by the Editorial Committee and in coming to that conclusion I am swayed by the fact that on looking at the present constitution of the Editorial Committee I note that six out of the 15 are not members of Council and for that reason alone it is necessary to have some check on that Committee's ability to express opinion or make comments on matters of major policy. I do not wish to disparage the members in question who were no doubt elected because of their literary and other abilities but at the same time I do not think the Association should agree to accept views by members who have been simply co-opted to a committee.

The President: It looks as if Mr. Steele-Bodger's amendment is consequent upon the fate of the original motion and I think the correct way will be to put the motion first.

Mr. Steele-Bodger: As long as it is understood by all members that in supporting Mr. Anderson's motion they are not necessarily supporting the suggestion that questions of policy should be decided by the Editorial Committee.

The President: We simply decide whether to reconsider the Great Yarmouth resolution with a view to helping the Editorial Committee.

The motion was put to the meeting and carried.

The President: To implement that motion we now have a motion from Mr. Steele-Bodger.

Mr. R. F. Montgomerie: Does this mean that we refer it to some Committee of the Association? It would seem to me that the right

procedure would be to charge one of these Committees with reconsideration. There is no more appropriate committee than the Finance and General Purposes Committee unless the Council asks the two Committees to jointly carry out the reconsideration for presentation to Council. I would suggest that it be referred for reconsideration to a joint meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee and the Editorial Committee.

Mr. H. E. Bywater: I would like to second that.

Professor G. H. Wooldridge: I propose that it be referred to Council for consideration. Any references to committees can be made by Council.

Mr. Steele-Bodger: I will withdraw my motion if you wish; but I feel sure that some members have voted for the resolution on the assumption that my motion would be put.

Dr. Montgomerie: I suggested reference to a committee which would report to Council because Council will have to refer it to an Annual General Meeting. The Great Yarmouth resolution cannot be rescinded by Council and I thought it was more direct to refer it to a joint meeting.

Mr. R. E. Glover: I think that is the correct procedure but I am not quite happy about Mr. Steele-Bodger's resolution. It seems to me that if it is carried, decisions regarding editorials on policy will be left in the hands of the officers of the Association. Whilst we have confidence in these officers, such decisions should not rest with a few people. For this reason I consider that the resolution passed at Great Yarmouth is more likely to ensure that the views of the Association are expressed in the editorial columns.

Professor G. H. Wooldridge: I proposed an amendment to Mr. Steele-Bodger's resolution.

Mr. J. R. Barker: This is the Annual General Meeting and I do not think amendments to motions can be considered to be in order, otherwise motions could be defeated by amendments of which the members had not due notice. I suggest therefore that you cannot accept an amendment to a motion at an annual general meeting.

The President: Shall we get out of this *impasse* if I assure you that this will come before Council for consideration?

After a little further discussion as to procedure, Professor G. H. Wooldridge proposed that the meeting pass to the next business; this was seconded, and carried.

Mr. H. W. Steele-Bodger moved:—

> "This meeting of members of the National Veterinary Medical Association assembled in annual conference registers its disapproval of the use of the abbreviation 'Vet.' used as a noun.
>
> "This meeting further expresses the wish that the Officers of the Association and others having occasion to represent or speak on behalf of members of the veterinary profession will at all times themselves refer to, and encourage others to refer to, fellows and members of our Royal College as veterinary surgeons."

Professor G. H. Wooldridge seconded.

Mr. T. M. Mitchell: Professor Wooldridge spoke up more quickly than I anticipated because I hoped to second this motion. I am not speaking as President of the Royal College but as a veterinary practitioner. We do not in more lucid moments use the term "vet." ourselves and we should discourage everyone with whom we come into contact from using it. I have no objection to the word "vet." as a verb. One "vets" almost anything now and I believe the word is incorporated in some of our English dictionaries as a term meaning to pass or examine.

Sir Arthur Olver: May I suggest this distinction which was used by my late chief, Sir Frederick Smith? He did not take any great exception to the familiar or jocular use of the word "vet." but held very strongly that it should never be used in official correspondence.

A Member: I am in entire agreement with the last speaker. When I go to the farmer and mention the words "veterinary surgeon" he stares at me but if I say "vet." he knows what I mean. How you will stop the use of the word "vet." in the farming community I do not know.

Dr. J. R. M. Innes: I think we have far more important things to do than to discuss this question. What harm does it do to call oneself a "vet."? To bring up a motion of this character when we have more important things to discuss is fantastic and ridiculous.

Major Kirk: I am not sure that Dr. Innes is correct. The proposer of the motion asks us not to encourage it. I think the term is a little derogatory.

Mr. Crosfield: I rather agree with Dr. Innes. I should like to move that the resolution be left on the table.

Dr. W. R. Wooldridge seconded.

Mr. Steele-Bodger: I am rather surprised that this should have developed into a controversy. I would, in the first place, apologise to Mr. Mitchell because when I asked him to second this motion I was fully conscious of the fact that he was President of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons and I felt I would like no less a person to second my motion. It is not brought forward in any flippant manner. One could not but be struck by Mr. Bevan's dignified manner when he received his presentation this afternoon when he referred to his colleagues as veterinary surgeons. I immediately contrasted it with the painting which recently appeared in the Academy and was reproduced in *The Tatler* entitled "The Vet." and those who saw it could not but feel humiliated by that presentation.

Most of you will have read the letter from the Home Office in which the word "vet." occurs no fewer than twelve times in 21 lines! The Press, particularly the agricultural Press, offends in this way and I understand that of late it has been the habit of the B.B.C. to refer to the "Radio vet." After my letter was published in *The Veterinary Record* I received a number of letters wishing me luck in the motion now before you. Another of the things which prompted me to put the motion before you was the fact that in recent films produced by Imperial Chemical Industries and by the house of Boots the word "vet." appears very often. One cannot stamp out this kind of thing but one can discourage it. I confess quite frankly that my clients do not refer to me as "the vet.", they know my objection and respect it. It is a question of education and example. I ask you not to regard this as a matter of no consequence.

Captain H. S. A. Dunn: I have no objection to being known as "the vet." One of my assistants would have lost the whole of my practice in trying to check clients from asking for "the vet."

Dr. Edwards: I think this motion is a little frivolous and unworthy of an educated body. It is for us to act so as to create in the public mind an opinion which is favourable. It is not for us to betray an uneasy sensitiveness by trying to stop people "calling us names." If one goes into the matter historically there is nothing really derogatory in the name of "vet." The name "veterinary surgeon" was first introduced, almost by accident, as a sort of compromise, into our vocabulary in the year 1796 when the men trained by the London College entering the Army were called veterinary surgeons to distinguish them from the human surgeons. Before that the first principal of the London College, the Frenchman Sainbel, had been at some pains to gain currency for the term which is more appropriate, "veterinary physician" following the French practice where members of the veterinary profession are sometimes commonly referred to as *médecins vétérinaires*, not *chirurgiens vétérinaires*. Unfortunately no substantive corresponding with the French *vétérinaire* has gained currency in the English language. I recall, however, that when W. Percivall launched in 1828 the journal which was to play such a large part in bringing life and harmony into the profession, especially under the inspiring editorship of W. Youatt, the title *The Veterinarian* was selected after careful thought. One could understand the public inability or disinclination to use that somewhat uneuphonious word.

When our Charter was obtained, in 1844, the veterinary profession was established in the public confidence, mainly through the resort of the public to qualified members of the profession of high repute and solid attainments for an expression of sound and wise judgment in matters arising from the purchase of horses and the retention of these animals for useful work. Hence "veterinary surgeon," really a misnomer, came to be the legal designation, in the Charters and Act of 1881. The name "vet." has not acquired the sinister meanings —"to adulterate, manipulate, or emasculate" to which members of the sister profession might, with greater reason, take offence when the verb "to doctor" is applied.

Mr. Steele-Bodger is gaining, we all know, a somewhat invidious reputation for frustrating motions by moving amendments. I would not wish to embarrass one to whom I personally owe so much for unfailing kindness and to whom we are all in deep debt for unrivalled service to the Association, by pressing the application of that process to the motion now before you. Believing as I do that the public does not mean any disrespect in the use of the abbreviated word and bearing in mind the history of its use in our language and its reception by the public, the terms which I have had in mind for an amendment, if one is really called for, are somewhat on these lines:—

> "That this Association notes with much gratification the connotation which the diminutive 'vet.' has come to acquire in English speech as indicating the submission of the object of a transaction between parties to a competent and trustworthy examination before completion of the transaction." (Laughter.)

The amendment that the motion should lie on the table was carried and became the substantive motion which also was carried.

Mr. Steele-Bodger: "I am honoured to be numbered amongst the minority."

There were no matters referred from the Council for consideration.

Induction of New President

The PRESIDENT: I have now to perform the pleasing function of inducting Professor Miller into office. I pointed out to you last year the symbolism of the gown and the President's badge which I have just placed on his shoulders and will not repeat it. I hope, Professor Miller, you will benefit from and enjoy your year of office as much as I have. (Applause.)

Professor MILLER: Once more may I express my sincere thanks for the honour you have done me and thank Major Hancock for the nice things he has said about me.

Votes of Thanks

The PRESIDENT (Professor Miller): The first duty I have to carry out is to ask you to express your appreciation to the Senior Past-President for his conduct of the chair during the past year. Major Hancock is a busy practitioner and you all know what that means, but in addition he takes a very great interest in music and engineering and in many social activities. In each capacity he carries out his duties in an able, conscientious and charming manner. In addition to all these activities he undertook the heavy burden of the Presidential office of this Association and he has carried out his duties with great ability, dignity and confidence and I am certain that I shall be expressing your feelings when I ask you to accord him an exceedingly hearty vote of thanks.

I think it is as well to remember that in addition to presiding at the various meetings of Council, the Annual General Meeting and at numerous committees there is a great deal of other work less spectacular but none the less arduous which has to be carried out by the person in the chair. He has shouldered this work equally ably with those who preceded him and he deserves from the members of this Association their best thanks for what he has done.

The vote of thanks was accorded by applause.

Major HANCOCK, in a brief acknowledgment, said that his year of office had been a great pleasure and a great education to him.

Mr. BARKER moved a vote of thanks to the other officers of the Association who had served the Association in their various capacities during the past year. It had been a difficult year and the officers had some achievements to their credit, particularly in combating the P.D.S.A. Bill. (Applause.)

The PRESIDENT said that Mr. Barker may have intended to include the permanent staff in what he said but they deserved an extraordinary vote of thanks for their work during the past year. Both Mr. Knight and Mr. Brown had during the year just passed, as in previous years, served with efficiency and unsparing efforts. (Applause.)

Dr. EDWARDS: I should like to thank on behalf of this assembly the Editorial Representative and his assistant for the extraordinarily good work they have done under great difficulties, and for the unfailing courtesy with which he meets contributors. Those of us concerned with the *Record* do not know what we should do without "our Mr. Brown."

Dr. W. R. WOOLDRIDGE also added his quota of thanks to the whole-time staff. He thought that members had not yet fully appreciated the fact that there had been a tremendous increase in the work of the Association during the last few years. Yet the staff had carried on without any complaint under the most trying circumstances. Committee work had very considerably increased but despite this and a depleted staff the associated administrative, secretarial and clerical work had been well done. Hence, of all the votes of thanks this afternoon this was, perhaps, the most important. He thought the time had arrived for an investigation to be made to go into the permanent staffing of the Association because if greater assistance was not given to them the health of the individuals who were working for the Association might be ruined.

The PRESIDENT said he would ask Dr. Wooldridge to bring the matter before the next meeting of Council so that action could be taken.

The proceedings of the Annual General Meeting then concluded.

The number of horses on U.S.A. farms declined during 1943, for the 29th consecutive year; from 9,675,000 in 1942 to 9,330,000 at the beginning of 1944. The number of mules declined also; from 3,704,000 to 3,559,000. The peak number of horses (on farms) was 21,431,000 in 1915, and for mules 5,918,000 in 1925.

10s. 6d.; Mrs. Spreull, £1; Mrs. Sangster, £1; Mrs. Smyth, £1 10s.; Mrs. Steele-Bodger, £5 15s.; Mrs. Simpson, £11 2s. 6d.; Mrs. Thomson, £1; Mrs. Vine, 10s.; Mrs. Wishart, 10s.; Mrs. Weir, 10s.; Mrs. Williams, 12s. 6d.; Mrs. Wilkinson, 13s.; Mrs. Williamson, £1; Mrs. Weipers, £1; Mrs. Wright, £1; Mrs. Watson, £1 1s.; Mrs. Wragg, £1 3s. 6d.; Mrs. G. H. Wooldridge, £3 12s.; Mrs. W. R. Wooldridge, £3 8s. 6d.; Mrs. A. H. Watson, £1 5s.

Students' Union Annual Dance, Veterinary College, Dublin, per Mrs. Browne, £17 15s. 6d.

Eastern Counties V.M.A. Darts Competition, per Mrs. Turner, £3 10s. 6d.

Tennis Tournament, Streatley House, per Mrs. G. H. Wooldridge, £8 8s.

V.V.B.F. Ladies' Guild

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The thirteenth Annual General Meeting of the Ladies' Guild was held at 10, Red Lion Square, W.C.1, on Thursday, October 19th, 1944.

There were present Mrs. W. R. Wooldridge (Vice-President, in the chair), Mesdames Hancock, Male, Miller, Steele-Bodger, G. H. Wooldridge, Wragg, and the Hon. Secretary, Mrs. R. E. Glover. Dr. F. Bullock, Secretary of the Victoria Veterinary Benevolent Fund, also attended.

The Hon. Secretary reported that a number of letters of apology for absence had been received, including one from Mrs. McQuaker, the President, who much regretted her inability to attend and sent warm thanks to all who had helped in any way to make the year such a successful one.

The minutes of the twelfth Annual General Meeting, which had been published in *The Veterinary Record*, were taken as read and signed as correct.

Election of Officers

The following were unanimously elected for the ensuing year:—

President.—Lady Olver.

Vice-Presidents.—Mrs. McQuaker, Mrs. Watson, Mrs. Grant, Mrs. Thomas, Mrs. Browne and Mrs. Camac.

Hon. Secretary and Treasurer.—Mrs. R. E. Glover.

Hon. Auditor.—Professor G. H. Wooldridge.

Annual Report and Financial Statement

The annual report for year 1943-44 and statement of accounts were submitted and adopted.

The HON. SECRETARY reported that it had been an excellent year and that in spite of continued difficulties in organising any social activities the balance in hand, when the accounts were audited, was £191 14s. 10d.—an increase of £36 over the previous year.

Thanks were expressed to the following members for collecting subscriptions and donations in their respective areas: Mrs. H. King, Mrs. McQuaker, Mrs. Mitchell, Mrs. Simpson, Mrs. Stewart, Mrs. Watson, Mrs. Weipers, Mrs. G. H. Wooldridge and Mrs. W. R. Wooldridge.

Resolutions

It was resolved that the following donations be made: £180 to the Victoria Veterinary Benevolent Fund; £10 to the National Veterinary Benevolent and Mutual Defence Society.

It was proposed by Mrs. G. H. WOOLDRIDGE, seconded by Mrs. WRAGG, and carried that an executive committee should be formed. The following members were nominated: The President, the Hon. Secretary, Mrs. Hancock, Miss Joshua, Mrs. Miller, Mrs. G. H. Wooldridge, Mrs. W. R. Wooldridge, Mrs. Wragg and Mrs. P. J. Simpson.

Dr. BULLOCK expressed the thanks of the Victoria Veterinary Benevolent Fund for the continued generous support of the Ladies' Guild and gave a brief account of the activities of the Fund.

The meeting ended with cordial votes of thanks to the retiring President, Mrs. McQuaker, to the Hon. Secretary and Treasurer, Mrs. Glover, to the Hon. Auditor, Professor G. H. Wooldridge, and to Dr. Bullock.

List of Donations

Mrs. Atkinson, 10s.; Mrs. Andrew, 10s.; Mrs. Andrew (Ware), 10s.; Mrs. Andrew (Paisley), 10s.; Mrs. Anderson, 10s.; Mrs. Argo, 10s.; Mrs. Bywater, £1 1s.; Mrs. Barker, 10s.; Mrs. Baxter, 10s.; Mrs. Brown, 10s.; Mrs. Begg, 10s.; Mrs. Benbow, 10s.; Mrs. Bickerton, 10s.; Mrs. Burgon, 10s.; Miss Bentley, 10s.; Mrs. Beaumont, 10s. 6d.; Mrs. Burrow, 12s. 6d.; Miss Bracken, 15s.; Mrs. Browne, £1; Mrs. Bowen, £1 1s.; Mrs. Carson, 10s.; Mrs. Cotchin, 10s.; Mrs. Camac, 10s. 6d.; Mrs. Cole Powney, 12s. 6d.; Mrs. Cunningham, 10s. 6d.; Mrs. Campbell, £1; Mrs. Chambers, £1; Mrs. Chipperfield, £1 1s.; Miss Darling, 10s.; Mrs. Douglas, 10s.; Mrs. Duff, 10s.; Mrs. Dobie, 10s. 6d.; Mrs. Donaldson, 12s. 6d.; Mrs. Dawes, £1; Mrs. Dolan, £1 1s.; Mrs. Downham, £2 2s.; Mrs. Elmes, 10s.; Mrs. Elam, 10s.; Mrs. Formston, 10s.; Mrs. Ferguson, 10s.; Mrs. Fraser, 10s.; Mrs. Forbes, 10s. 6d.; Mrs. Franklin, 13s.; Miss Fussell, £1; Miss M. Golledge, 10s.; Miss D. Golledge, 10s. 6d.; Mrs. Griffiths, 10s. 6d.; Mrs. Gardner, £1; Mrs. Glover, £1 2s. 6d.; Mrs. Gould, £1 3s. 6d.; Mrs. Greig, £1 3s. 6d.; Mrs. Heather, 10s.; Mrs. Hobson, 10s.; Mrs. Hertes, 10s. 6d.; Mrs. Hepburn, 10s. 6d.; Mrs. Hewer, £1; Mrs. Hignett, £1; Mrs. Hancock, £1; Mrs. Holroyd, £1 1s.; Mrs. Hardwick, £1 1s.; Mrs. Hughes, £1 2s. 6d.; Mrs. Hopson, £8 9s. 4d.; Mrs. Johnstone, 10s.; Mrs. Jones, 10s.; Mrs. Jordan, 12s. 6d.; Miss Joshua, 12s. 6d.; Mrs. Jennings, £1 3s. 6d.; Mrs. C. King, 10s.; Mrs. H. King, £1 0s. 6d.; Mrs. Kay, 12s. 6d.; Mrs. Kelly, £2 4s. 6d.; Mrs. Lovell, 10s.; Mrs. Locke, sen., 10s.; Mrs. Lothian, 10s.; Mrs. Lewis, 12s. 6d.; Mrs. Love, £1; Mrs. Larnach, £1 1s.; Mrs. McLeod, 10s.; Mrs. McGregor, 10s.; Mrs. Miller, 10s.; Mrs. Miller (Paisley), 10s.; Mrs. Matheson, 10s.; Mrs. Mitchell, 10s.; Mrs. Mason, 10s.; Mrs. Montgomery, 10s.; Mrs. McCleery, 10s.; Miss Morton, 10s.; Mrs. McKenzie, 10s. 6d.; Mrs. Millar, 10s. 6d.; Mrs. McLean, 12s. 6d.; Mrs. N. Male, 12s. 6d.; Mrs. Michie, 13s.; Mrs. Mackie, £1 1s.; Mrs. Mathias, £1 1s.; Mrs. G. P. Male, £1 3s. 6d.; Mrs. McQuaker, £3 3s.; Mrs. Nairn, £1; Lady Olver, 18s. 6d.; Mrs. Ottaway, 12s. 6d.; Miss Parker, 10s.; Mrs. Procter, 10s.; Mrs. Patchett, 10s.; Mrs. Pugh, £1 1s.; Mrs. Powley, £1 3s. 6d.; Mrs. Peggie, £1 10s.; Mrs. Roberts, 10s.; Mrs. Robertson, 10s.; Mrs. R. G. Smith, 10s; Mrs. R. M. Smith, 10s.; Mrs. Shannon, 10s.; Mrs. Somer, 10s.; Mrs. Stennett, 10s.; Mrs. Scorgie, 10s. 6d.; Mrs. Stewart,

CLINICAL COMMUNICATION

Bracken Poisoning in Cattle

J. M. FLETCHER, M.R.C.V.S.,
Argyll

Symptoms.—There are two types met with in practice, *viz.*: the enteritic and the acute laryngeal.

(1) The enteritic type, which is by far the commoner, usually shows symptoms of depression, high temperature (ranging from 103° to 107°), weak pulse, enteritis with clots of blood in the faeces, and pallid conjunctivae.

(2) The laryngitic type shows swelling in the throat region, roaring and difficulty in breathing, increased respirations and a high temperature.

Diagnosis.—When one meets with the above symptoms in a cattle beast grazing on rough hill pasture where bracken is abundant or even where the affected animal grazed on such pastures to within a fortnight or less of development of disease, the possibility of bracken poisoning should be suspected.

Prognosis is grave as most cases die, death taking place as a rule within three days of the onset of the disease.

Post-mortem Examination.—The findings are usually those of haemorrhagic enteritis with clotted blood in the rectum and terminal portions of the intestines, petechial haemorrhages in the lungs, heart, pleura, peritoneum, liver and sometimes the kidneys, the extent varying in different cases. In some instances the sub-pleural and sub-peritoneal haemorrhage is so great that it presents one continuous area of clotted blood.

The laryngeal type shows effusion and haemorrhage in the region of the larynx simulating the recorded symptoms of pasteurellosis in buffaloes.

Out of about 20 cases examined *post mortem* the heart was empty, the *post-mortem* finding presenting the picture of an internal haemorrhage.

Causation.—In the past there have been two theories current in connection with bracken poisoning:—

(1) That poisoning is the result of pteritannic acid contained in the bracken.

(2) That bracken acts as an irritant to the intestines, thus allowing the entrance of bacteria, notably pasteurellae, which then set up disease.

To these two theories I would tentatively add a third, namely, the biochemical condition of the blood.

Treatment.—The fever and *post-mortem* findings rather suggesting that pasteurellae played a prominent part, I tried pasteurellosis treatment on three cases, one being the laryngeal type. This consisted of subcutaneous injection of a solution of Iodum resub. half dram, Pot. iodi one dram, Aquae ad 300 c.c. All three cases recovered.

Again working on the theory that if the internal haemorrhage could be checked a cure would be obtained, I tried two treatments as follows.

About four years ago I tried oxalic acid intravenously to control the internal haemorrhage. The cow showed an improvement in condition but this was not maintained as it relapsed and died ten days later. It was obvious that the treatment checked the disease and if it had been repeated in two days perhaps it would have resulted in a cure.

Knowing that calcium is essential for the clotting of blood and that bracken thrives best on pastures deficient in lime, I propounded the theory that there might be a Ca deficiency in the system and therefore injected one case with Ca subcutaneously hoping to help check the internal haemorrhage. However, the animal died the next day despite this treatment.

Later I took a blood sample from another case and sent it for analysis to the Animal Diseases Research Association. I am indebted to Mr. Stewart for the analysis which is as follows:—

Haemoglobin	5·3 g.	Magnesium	2·48 mg.
Chloride ...	510 mg.	Total P ...	7·1 „
Sugar ...	55·2 „	Inorganic P	4·97 „
Calcium ...	8·5 „	N.P.N. ...	33·3 „

All per 100 c.c. of blood.

Mr. Stewart's comment was that "Apart from a very low haemoglobin, which probably reflects a certain degree of anaemia, the figures are all within the normal range."

The low haemoglobin content fits in with my observations of a virtual internal haemorrhage which in my opinion may be due to a change in osmotic pressure.

Bracken poisoning is regarded as cumulative, symptoms sometimes appearing up to a fortnight after removal from affected pastures. If, however, the pasteurellosis theory is correct it should of course be regarded rather as an incubation period.

Old or withered bracken is regarded as the most toxic; yet we sometimes get cattle affected in early summer. How can we reconcile these two apparently contradictory statements? There are two reasons for this early summer poisoning.

(1) As the young bracken shoots begin to grow and unfold in May and June they are very tender and are readily affected by night frost which is quite prevalent in these months, causing extensive browning and withering of the young tender shoots. These frosted shoots are definitely more toxic. There is no doubt that certain natural contours are affected to a greater extent than others, *e.g.*, valleys, hollows and hill sides which are shaded from the early rising sun.

(2) Cut bracken, as a result of eradication attempts, lies withered on the ground and sometimes cattle, especially if possessed with a depraved appetite, will readily eat it and symptoms of poisoning may develop. I once saw three out of six heifers grazing in a field dying under these circumstances with the disease.

In conclusion, I wish to record that in June of this year, 1944, I made a *post-mortem* examination of a black-faced ewe which showed typical symptoms of bracken poisoning as described above in cattle. I have, however, never seen any reference to this disease in sheep. The stomach contents of this ewe were sent for chemical analysis as the owner suspected poisoning, the result being negative.

Incidentally, about this time the Press was commenting on a mysterious disease from which sheep were dying in the Highlands of Scotland. It would have been interesting to have investigated the possibility of bracken being the cause of death in these instances.

REVIEW

[Minerals in Pasture: Deficiencies and Excesses in Relation to Animal Health, by F. C. Russell, B.Sc., with a foreword by Sir John Boyd Orr, D.S.O., M.C., M.D., F.R.S. Technical Communication No. 15 of the Imperial Bureau of Animal Nutrition, Rowett Institute, Bucksburn, Aberdeen, May, 1944, pp. vi + 91. Price 5s.]

This is a review of the literature and, despite certain shortcomings, it is bound to be read and used widely. To the specialist it provides a useful annotated bibliography, while it should certainly be purchased by all veterinary students for use in conjunction with their courses in animal husbandry and medicine and by all practitioners at home and overseas who are concerned with the nutritional disorders of grazing animals.

The following diseases are dealt with: bush-sickness, Morton Mains disease, Mairoa dopiness, enzoötic marasmus, nutritional anaemia of sheep, nakuruitus, pining, Grand Traverse disease, "neck-ail," a probable cobalt deficiency occurring in Canada, coast disease, salt sick, enzoötic ataxia, swayback, sudden death or falling disease, "wobbles" in foals or calves, "stringy" or "straight steely" wool in sheep, scouring disease, "teart," licking disease attributed to copper deficiency, lecktsucht, goitre, phosphorus and calcium deficiencies, hypomagnesaemic tetany, alkali disease and blind staggers, enzoötic haematuria of cattle, "forage anaemia," fluorosis, arsenic poisoning and "oat hay poisoning."

It is unfortunate—although perhaps unavoidable—that Miss Russell has been tempted to link up certain sections and to make original suggestions or deductions. Thus "teart" is discussed in the chapter headed "Diseases attributed or attributable to deficiency of copper," and it is suggested that since copper sulphate is an effective remedy the toxic factor (molybdenum) acts through interference with copper metabolism. As a matter of fact there is not only no direct evidence to support such a statement but also some experimental work to suggest the contrary. The fact that in the clinically similar "scouring disease" in Holland there is some evidence of copper deficiency does not permit one to jump to conclusions.

From the practitioner's viewpoint it is unfortunate also that fluorine, arsenic and other intoxications are dealt with scantily, presumably because they are not attributed to the mineral content of the herbage itself but to surface contamination and similar factors. The distinction is a rather fine one, and has led to the omission of material which would have been of especial value in Great Britain.

Appreciation should be expressed to Sir John Orr for his statement that "The veterinarian has . . . rightly come to take the leading part in work on mineral deficiencies and excesses in pasture."

ABSTRACTS

[**Physical Examination of the Udder in the Diagnosis of Chronic Bovine Mastitis.** Murphy, J. M., Udall, D. H., Johnson, S. D., and Tompkins, L. J. (1944.) *Cornell Vet.* **34**. 1.]

In this report an attempt has been made to correlate the physical examination of the udder (strip-cup, bromthymol blue test and manual examination of the empty udder) with the bacteriological examination of the foremilk for pathogenic bacteria.

As a result of the physical examination of each quarter, the udders were classed as Nos. 1, 2, 3 and 4, according to the state of induration present, coupled with the positive or negative results of the strip-cup and bromthymol blue tests. For example, a No. 1 udder was normal in every respect except possibly for single slight indurations in some quarters and was uniformly symmetrical, whereas a No. 4 udder contained marked indurations and was usually positive to the strip-cup and bromthymol blue tests.

Bacteriological examination proved 72·8 per cent. of the No. 4 udders, 33·2 per cent. of the No. 3 udders and 5·2 per cent. of the No. 2 udders to be infected with streptococci. It was thought, however, that the low percentage of streptococcal infection in the No. 3 udders might be explained by a high incidence of staphylococcal infection in this group. J. S. P.

* * * * *

[**Swine Erysipelas Organisms Recovered from a Brown Rat** (*Rattus norvegicus*). Stiles, S. W. (1944.) *Amer. J. vet. Res.* **5**. 243-245.]

During a rat extermination campaign, a hundred rats were selected at random for bacteriological examination. Among the organisms isolated was one strain of *Erysipelothrix rhusiopathiae*. This was obtained from an adult female brown rat captured near the stockyards. The animal was flea-infested, its right hind leg was swollen and gangrenous, and its remaining three feet were distorted and club-shaped. The right inguinal lymph node was enlarged, oedematous and haemorrhagic and the spleen was thickened and engorged.

The isolated organism was pathogenic for mice and pigeons, and its cultural characteristics resembled those of *Ery. rhusiopathiae*.

These findings indicate the possibility that rats may transmit swine erysipelas from infected to non-infected premises, and provide one more reason for rat extermination. I. W. B.

Questions and Answers

"Questions and Answers" will be published on alternate weeks.

The submission of questions for inclusion in this column will be welcomed. They can relate to any aspect of veterinary work and where publication of the name of the enquirer is not desired, a pseudonym should be supplied, the name and address also being given.

Answers to readers' queries represent exclusively the personal opinions of the writers, and criticism of the replies will be appreciated.

All communications should be addressed to the Editor.

Sprain of the Sub-carpal Ligament

Q.—*A heavy draught horse, daily hauling loads of about 3½ tons on city streets, sustains a sprain of the sub-carpal ligament. After firing and rest the affected limb becomes sound. Will it remain so if the horse is put gradually back into the same class of work?—A. Hart.*

A.—Sprain or rupture of the sub-carpal ligament, varies in gravity with the degree of injury; the strain may be slight and limited to a few fibres, or severe, involving a considerable portion of the ligament. In heavy draught horses utilised on the City (London) roads it is quite common to find rupture of the sub-carpal ligament, and even the perforans, co-existing with exostosis of the pastern; in fact it is rare to find rupture in this ligament and tendon without such an exostosis.

Experience has shown that whatever treatment and rest is given in these cases, when these animals with such structural changes resume work on the City roads with large loads they cannot stand it very long as lameness reappears.

Swine Erysipelas

Q.—*Do hygienic conditions have any effect on predisposition to swine erysipelas, as an equal percentage of cases seem to occur under all the systems of housing or free-range? Most of the pigs in my district are kept in the ordinary cottager's pig-sty (consisting of a small covered-in sleeping pen, with an open court attached containing the feeding trough).*

I should like to hear of the incidence of swine erysipelas amongst pigs on larger farms and experience with immunising agents.—X1.

(2) *I have experienced an outbreak of "illness" in pigs following vaccination against swine erysipelas and some losses have occurred despite the use of swine erysipelas serum. What action would you advise me to take?—X2.*

A.—(1) The influence of hygienic conditions presumably comes into play only when erysipelas exists in the herd or on the premises or pastures. If the infection is present, bad hygienic conditions will tend to concentrate it, and in addition will by lowering the vitality of the animals render them more susceptible to infection. If the infection is not present bad hygienic conditions cannot give rise to the disease. As the disease is of seasonal occurrence it would appear probable that variations of temperature and humidity are more important predisposing causes than bad hygiene. The great difficulty of infecting pigs by the inoculation of virulent cultures of *Erysipelothrix rhusiopathiae* suggests the existence of some other major predisposing factor. In the absence of statistical information it is not possible to pass an opinion on the comparative incidence of erysipelas in cottagers' pigs and on pig farms, but experience would suggest that the disease is relatively more frequent among cottagers' pigs, probably because of the long continued use of a small area of ground.

There are no figures available in this country on the results of sero-vaccination. Van Es and McGrath (1942) state that during the period 1939-40 in Nebraska, a total of 204,219 pigs were vaccinated, and among these 1,617 developed erysipelas, *i.e.*, 0·78 per cent. When standardised serum is used in the sero-vaccine method the results generally appear to be excellent.

(2) Without further information on the symptoms exhibited, and the morbidity and mortality rates, it is impossible to make any suggestion as to the cause of the "illness" that followed the serum treatment for erysipelas. As swine erysipelas serum is prepared from horses there is no possibility of it being naturally infected with any of the causal agents of the commoner diseases of pigs. The only safeguards that can be taken are to use freshly boiled syringes and needles and use unopened bottles of serum for each herd. This problem was the subject of a paper read by Mr. J. O. Powley, Ministry of Agriculture, at the recent annual meeting of the N.V.M.A.

Immunisation Against Distemper

Q.—*Can anyone recommend a method of immunising dogs against distemper other than by the use of Burroughs Wellcome & Company's Canine Distemper Prophylactic products, as these have become almost impossible to obtain?—Hopeful.*

A.—On the information available to us it seems that the difficulties which Messrs. Burroughs Wellcome & Co. have in making Canine Distemper Prophylactics freely available are the result of greatly increased demand which, even if anticipated, could not be met because of the difficulty in expanding the production of products of this nature in these war years. The chief shortage is in dried virus. Generally, virus-specific distemper vaccine and distemper serum are available from this source.

Since no method has yet been discovered by which high immunity of long duration may be effected in the dog without exposure to living virus, vaccine or serum by themselves cannot give anything more than a temporary protection.

A single dose of vaccine, as evidenced by the use of the so-called Method I, does, in the majority of cases, give an immunity which will withstand infection by virus. Therefore, one method which has been used is to vaccinate the dog and then expose it to natural infection 14 to 21 days after the inoculation. The immunity built up in response to the injected vaccine prevents actual infection and exposure to virus enhances it to a high level. With this procedure one must, however, guard against the natural virus overcoming the vaccine immunity. A good indication of what is happening in that respect can, of course, be obtained by careful temperature taking during the week following exposure to infection. A second and quite special risk where this method is used is that secondary invaders infecting from the source of the virus may have become enhanced in virulence and so may set up disease simulating distemper in the vaccinated animal. On general immunological principles one can, of course, say that the injection of two doses of vaccine, the interval being at least 14 days, will stimulate a higher level of immunity than that which follows one dose. For that reason an immunity of some duration can be effected by the giving of a double dose of vaccine. Then the dog may be left to have that immunity reinforced as it meets distemper virus later in life. Unfortunately the duration of immunity following two doses of vaccine has not been adequately investigated.

Another line which may be adopted is that of deliberately exposing the susceptible animal to natural infection and then, say 24 hours later, injecting 10 to 20 c.c. of serum. In this case also one must keep in mind the possibility that virulent secondary invaders from the source of the distemper virus may set up a distemper syndrome.

In any of these methods which involve the use of natural virus, an essential feature of immunisation is temperature taking during

the week following exposure. This, in the vast majority of cases, will clearly show whether the virus has actually established itself and will afford the opportunity to combat it by the injection of serum. Thus one may prevent the invasion of nervous tissue and the opening of the way to the very troublesome secondary infections.

Pseudo-pregnancy in Bitches

Q.—*To what can the abdominal distension met in pseudo-pregnancy in bitches, and which disappears very suddenly at the 49th day, be attributed?*—"*J.*"

A.—Abdominal distension, whether in pregnancy or in pseudo-pregnancy, occurs, under endocrine influence, for the express purpose of providing adequate accommodation to the expected foetus. The distension observed is probably due for the most part to changes which occur in the abdominal walls. The muscles relax and become distended (or, should we say, increased in superficial area); then there appear over the abdominal walls multitudes of inconspicuous lines—the *striae gravidarum*—which persist for some time after the termination of gestation, then becoming whiter and more cicatricial in appearance as contraction to normal takes place.

In pseudo-pregnancy, the mammary glands, coincidently with the changes affecting the generative organs, undergo important alterations during the preparation for their assumption of the stage of functional activity. These changes early induce greater general volume of the mammae, depending upon an increase both of the interlobular connective tissue and fat, and of the true secreting tissue of the glands. [Although the writer has not had occasion to "*post-mortem*" a bitch during false pregnancy, he considers it is highly probable that more or less enlargement of the uterus itself would be found.] Finally, since the pregnant animal is expected to be called upon to nourish an extra living creature, there will be a gradual provision of stored fat, subcutaneously and elsewhere. All these factors together produce an abdominal enlargement, but the writer cannot agree with the questioner that the phenomenon disappears very suddenly at precisely the 49th day. His own observations are that the signs of pregnancy persist; that the supposed date of parturition arrives and passes, and with it all hope of puppies. Only then does the abdominal enlargement commence to dissipate.

Correspondence

Grit for Poultry

Sir,—Following an answer to the query about grit for poultry there followed some correspondence (*Vet. Rec.*, October 7th, p. 377). I quote the following abstract taken *verbatim* from *Experimental Station Record*, 1944 (July), Vol. 91, No. 1, p. 65:—

"*Calcium for egg shells.* D. C. Kennard (*Ohio Sta. Bimo. Bul.* 226 (1944), pp. 27-32).—The essentiality of some suitable source of calcium carbonate for eggshell formation and maximum egg production is emphasised. In two-year tests of calcium carbonate supplements for layers, the groups which received oyster shell averaged 20 more eggs per bird than did those that received dolomitic magnesia limestone grit (80 per cent. calcium carbonate) and 42 more eggs per bird than the birds that received no calcium carbonate supplement. In a ten weeks' test with pullets which received the same ration with and without oyster shell, the respective total number of unbroken eggs was 1,438 and 977, and the broken eggs seven and 53. The primary advantage of oyster shell is its standardised nature with 95 to 98 per cent. calcium carbonate, whereas limestone is a highly variable product and requires a close checking of its calcium and magnesium content when used for poultry feeding."

This article answers the question as to whether the calcium carbonate of oyster shell is of value for eggshell formation and also suggests it is superior—not inferior—to limestone for the purpose.

Yours faithfully,

Pendals, Hampstead Norris, Newbury, Berks. E. G. White.

October 26th, 1944.

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Conditions Associated with Pain on Forcible Mouth Opening

Sir,—In the reply on the above subject there is one condition not mentioned in an otherwise excellent and comprehensive list.

I refer to fibro-myositis of the masseter muscles in which they gradually become replaced by fibrous tissue.

The condition, I believe, is a comparatively rare one. I am not aware of a completely satisfactory answer as to its causes, nor as far as I know does it respond to any line of treatment.

I should be interested to hear whether others have had any success in treating these cases.

Yours faithfully,

15, Park Avenue, Potters Bar, Middlesex. Marion J. Freak.

November, 1944.

NOTES AND NEWS

The Editor will be glad to receive items of professional interest for inclusion in these columns.

Diary of Events

Dec. 5th.—N.V.M.A. Committee Meetings, 36, Gordon Square, W.C.1: Organising 11 a.m.; Appointments 2.30 p.m.

Dec. 6th.—Special meeting of the Scottish Branch, N.V.M.A., at Edinburgh ("Dick" College), 2.30 p.m.

Dec. 13th.—Meeting of the Editorial Committee, N.V.M.A., at 36, Gordon Square, London, W.C.1, 2.30 p.m.

Dec. 14th.—N.V.M.A. Committee Meetings, 36, Gordon Square, W.C.1: Finance and General Purposes 11 a.m.; Joint Veterinary Officers and Public Health and Parliamentary, 2.30 p.m.

Dec. 15th.—Ditto: Nominations, in connection with Standing Committees for 1944-45.

Dec. 15th.—**N.V.M.A. Council Meeting,** at Friends' House, Euston Road, London, W.C.1, 12 noon.

Future Meetings

Nutrition Society

Attention is drawn to the programme, announced in our "Forthcoming Meetings" column on page vi, of the whole-day conference on "The Nutritional Role of the Microflora in the Alimentary Tract," to be held by the Nutrition Society on Saturday, December 30th, at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, Keppel Street, W.C.1, commencing at 11 a.m.

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PERSONAL

Births.—Milligan.—On November 20th, 1944, at Blandford Cottage Hospital, to Hannah (*née* Taylor), wife of Wm. A. Milligan, M.R.C.V.S., D.V.S.M., "Bushy Shaw," Checkendon, Reading—a daughter (Deanne Sara Margaret) and a twin daughter, stillborn.

Erratum.—In the marriage announcement of Major F. J. Milne to Miss Margaret Garnett, appearing in our issue of September 2nd (p. 326), the reference to the latter should read, "eldest daughter of Mrs. and the late Mr. J. Garnett, Hellifield, Yorkshire." The error in the announcement is much regretted.

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ROYAL COLLEGE OF VETERINARY SURGEONS

Awards of Fellowship Diploma.—At the meeting of Council, R.C.V.S., held on October 16th, announcement was made of the award of the Fellowship Diploma to Mr. Clifford Formston (the title of whose thesis was "Observations on sub-luxation and luxation of the crystalline lens in the dog") and to Mr. John G. Campbell (thesis: "Neoplasia in the domestic fowl").

Prize Awards.—At the same meeting award of the following prizes also was announced:—

Fitzwygram Prizes

(This prize is awarded to the student with the highest aggregate marks in the five professional examinations.)

1941: First—Whitty, B. T. (Dublin); Second—Hutch, L. (Dublin).
1942: First—Thorne, A. L. C. (London); Second—Grieve, Miss C. G. (Mrs. Witherington) (London).
1943: First—Davies, D. G. E. (London); Second—Kelly, W. R. (Dublin).
1944: First—Duncan, L. J. P. (Edinburgh); Second—Plowright, W. (London).

Weekly Wisdom

"*. . . It is not only necessary for a surgeon that he should know the different parts of an animal, but he should know their uses in the machine, and in what manner they act to produce their effect. He ought not only to know the whole of any one single action, or the knowledge of all the actions singly, but he should ascertain their correspondence, mark their relations, and acquire a competent idea of the compound actions and general fabric of the machine. Operations should never be introduced but in cases of absolute necessity. A Surgeon should never approach a victim for an operation but with humiliation: it is a reflection upon the healing art. He is then like a savage in arms, who performs by violence what a civilised nation would accomplish by stratagem.*"—John Hunter, 1782.

Williams Prize

(This prize is awarded to the student with the best aggregate in the final professional examination during that year in Veterinary Medicine and Veterinary Surgery, which must be not less than 60 per cent. of the total marks for these subjects.)

1940: O'Leary, C. (Dublin).
1941: No award.
1942: Griffiths, R. B. (Liverpool).
1943: Donald, D. E. (Edinburgh).

* * * *

R.C.V.S. OBITUARY

Hudson, Richard, F.R.C.V.S., 56, Bridgegate, Retford, Notts. Graduated London, July 17th, 1897; Fellow, December 2nd, 1905. Died at St. Michael's Place, Retford, November 20th, 1944; aged 68 years.

Mr. Richard Hudson's death will be felt very deeply by the profession, for not only was he held in high regard for his distinguished work in the field of surgery, which he demonstrated very effectively at Annual Congresses of the N.V.M.A., but his lovable and unassuming character endeared him to all. This week we are glad to publish a personal tribute: it will be followed by a memoir.

Leonard, Thomas Bernard, Boyle, Co. Sligo. Graduated July 21st, 1943, Dublin. Died November 9th, 1944.

Richard Hudson, F.R.C.V.S.

A Personal Tribute

With the passing of Dick Hudson the profession has lost one who made his mark in the realms of clinical medicine and surgery, who was an original thinker and moreover a kind and courteous gentleman. He was a man who gained just eminence and recognition in his time and by his works has earned a place amongst the great.

He was my friend and mentor and I cannot let the moment pass without paying a tribute to him and his life and work. He came of a family which had been associated for long with veterinary work in his native town of Retford and the North Midlands. His father, also an extremely competent man, died whilst Dick was still a boy. This boy had already shown great interest in and an especial aptitude for the family calling, so his mother determined to keep the family practice going until such times as Dick could proceed to college to qualify. It was a great struggle, but she had a keen enthusiastic son who was to reward all her efforts. He had a good college career and qualified on July 17th, 1897. Mrs. Hudson was fortunate in being able to employ good men as managers during the interim. One of these men was David Imrie. David took an interest in his pupil and had a great influence on the young man—an interest which continued until his death. In many ways they were similar souls, modest, studious, and extremely capable men who cared more for the science and art than for the ledger. After qualifying Dick took over the family practice and soon it was evident that Retford had a veterinary surgeon of exceptional brilliance and promise. He took his F.R.C.V.S. on December 2nd, 1905.

There was nothing slipshod about Hudson: each case would be given the greatest thought and consideration. Nothing was left to chance or spot diagnosis. Cases which defeated him would cause him great concern and he would reflect upon them for many days and even months long after the crisis had passed, or he would follow them to *post mortem* in his search for the truth. So from his earliest days Hudson was destined to become a good clinician and so well did he succeed in this sphere that to many he was recognised as pre-eminent amongst his fellows. He was an original thinker and added much to the store of knowledge. He also became an expert and extremely skilful surgeon. Naturally gifted with his hands, he was also a good mechanic and like many other great craftsmen he could devise and fashion his own tools. He would tend his instruments with an almost loving care and woe to the pupil who would neglect them. In training himself to become a surgeon he would seize every opportunity to develop his natural gifts. He spent many hours of his leisure at the local slaughterhouse, operating and operating on the freshly killed specimen, trying out established methods and devising new ones until his technique was perfect. As a consequence his services were often in demand by fellow practitioners and especially by his neighbours. In the latter case Hudson proved to be the exception to the old rule, for no man could have commanded greater respect and affection in his own country than the man they called "Dick" and to whom they would go whenever in trouble.

His fame spread far afield and his services as a consultant took him to all parts of the country. Those who had the privilege of seeing him at work had no difficulty in recognising the master. He would always share his knowledge and from time to time contributed to the veterinary Press. These contributions were invariably original and striking; often they would bring to notice facts which were fundamental but which had escaped the notice or observation of his fellows who had not "the eyes to see."

All his life he was a student and kept abreast of modern knowledge. He would explore any avenue which he thought might throw light on the problems of veterinary science. Last August, as was my wont, I paid him several visits. He was a shadow of his former self and so frail that it was as much as he could do to get about. But whatever his physical state his great brain was as active as ever. He was studying the number and arrangement of the chromosomes of the Dog Daisy: he thought that if he pursued this study and also that of plant genetics he might get useful information which he could apply to animals. When I left him I was instructed to ascertain what were suitable books which would help him. Even when he had to take to his bed the urge for study did not leave him. It is good to know that his illness was not a painful one and that he passed peacefully away.

And so I mourn a friend—a quiet, unassuming, cultured man and yet a king amongst veterinary surgeons; and I mourn for the profession which has lost one who in his time and place fulfilled completely the vows he took on graduation and brought honour and renown to his *Alma Mater*.

J. McC.

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R.C.V.S. ANIMAL MANAGEMENT EXAMINATION

List of Successful Candidates

(Concluded)

Dublin:

Alford, G. A.	O'Sullivan, C. G.
Cox, J. R.	Rackard, Nicholas
Gormley, P. D.	Tubridy, M. S.
Hughes, F. J.	Walsh, E. A.
Keane, C.	Warmington, J. C. (Credit)
Loughlin, D. (Credit).	Weir, Edward
Lynch, T. J.	White, Declan
Ni Mhaoileoin, Miss S.	Keenan, O. M.
O'Hare, O. C.	

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GUY SUTTON MEMORIAL FUND

Since the last announcement a further donation has been received as follows, and has been added to the Fund:—

	£	s.	d.
Messrs. Stainton & Ollerhead	10	10	0
Previously reported	1,250	0	0
	£1,260	10	0

* * * * *

FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE

Early last week the existence of foot-and-mouth disease was confirmed among pigs at Beccles, Suffolk, and Scalby, Scarborough, Yorks. At a later date an outbreak of the disease was confirmed among pigs at Sonning, Berks, and Penicuik, Midlothian, and on Friday of last week cattle were found affected at Coventry. A further outbreak was confirmed on Sunday among cattle at Lisvane, Cardiff.

* * * * *

NEW DIRECTOR OF ROSS INSTITUTE

Brigadier George Macdonald has been appointed Director of the Ross Institute of Tropical Hygiene, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, and will take up his appointment on his release from the Services.

Brigadier Macdonald, who holds the degrees and diplomas of M.D., Ch.B., D.P.H., and D.T.M., was born in 1903, the son of J. S. Macdonald, F.R.S., Emeritus Professor of Physiology in the University of Liverpool and was educated at King Edward VII School, Sheffield, Liverpool Institute, and Liverpool University Medical School. He has carried out research work on tropical diseases in West Africa and other places. He was appointed Assistant Director of the Ross Institute in 1939.

* * * * *

STERILISATION OF SYRINGES

The following two letters are abstracted from the *British Medical Journal*.

Dr. H. S. Gaskell (Stowmarket) writes: "Forty years ago the syringe was seldom used by the general practitioner and I found myself adequately equipped by possessing a 1 c.c. instrument which I boiled for an occasional hypodermic of morphine. A few years ago, however, I found that I was continually having to add to my collection of varieties and sizes. I became bored with the daily job of boiling two or three syringes and, besides grudging the time it took, I was convinced that constant boiling did them no good. My subsequent experiments were as follows: (1) Methylated spirit. I kept them in a bowl of this but found that it quickly evaporated, and was not persuaded that even the modicum

of spirit remaining in the syringe harmonised well with either the medicament injected or my patients' tissues. (2) Hard tap water boiled and filtered to remove chalk. Separating pistons from barrels, I boiled them up about twice a week and kept them in the enamelled bowl in which they were boiled. Needles and metal rusted and became discoloured. (3) Hard tap water with glycerine was better, but itself turned brownish after a few boilings. (4) I have since adopted the solution mentioned in the *B.M.J.* of November 20th, 1943, page 666—*i.e.*, borax 1·5 g., formalin 2·5 c.c., phenol 0·4 c.c., aqua dest. ad 100 c.c.

Enough of this is poured into a perpendicular-sided white enamelled photographic dish, 10 in. × 8 in. × 2 in. deep, to cover the largest syringe used (in my case 20 c.c.), and this is kept covered with a similar dish. Before using a syringe I squirt out all the solution and then draw the piston up and down, with needle, in a bowl of boiled glycerinated water standing next to it, also kept covered.

So far this has given perfectly satisfactory results and the syringe markings do not disappear as they do when subjected to boiling and other methods. There is no rusting. I have abandoned the use of a 1 c.c. syringe as I found that it barely admits 1 c.c., and in the case of some injections—*e.g.*, coramine—will not contain the whole ampoule, which is 1·2 c.c. Both of the above liquids have to be periodically filtered to remove blobs of oil floating in them from oily injections.

Four or five years ago I pointed out to one manufacturer that no ordinary calibred needle would suck up oil, and suggested that a large non-pointed "needle" should be supplied with each syringe with which to fill it with the oily fluid, this being replaced with one almost down to hypodermic size for injection. A year later I noticed that these came on the market and I always use one for oil. . . . It is easy to have a basin of boiled water ready for you on the day you are expected, in which to wash out the instrument before and after use. Some may say this is too rough and ready and does not "sterilise" the syringe, but I have never had a hypodermic, intravenous or an intramuscular injection go septic in my life. The above remarks do not apply to intravenous syringes and needles, which I always boil."

. . . . .

In the July 29th issue of the *B.M.J.* Dr. Roberts (Hythe) writes: "I have been in the habit of keeping my syringe in its container in 50 per cent. dettol. I change the needle when it is blunt and the dettol every fortnight. For some years I did not disinfect the skin (I do now with the dettol in the container for the patient's benefit and to be on the safe side). I carry out this method for all kinds of injections—mainly T.A.B., T.A.F., A.P.T., whooping cough vaccine, etc. If I do what I call a 'dirty' injection I then change the needle and soak the syringe in pure dettol for half an hour. After using my syringe for a fortnight in this way I had the dettol in the container and an injection of sterile saline, which I sucked up in the syringe, cultured (two of each). These showed growth of *B. subtilis*, no other organisms being found. *B. subtilis*, I understand, is regarded as harmless to man on injection. I have used this method for ten years for several thousand injections with, so far, no ill effect. It is labour saving and, I hope, is foolproof."

. . . . .

Major Kirk, in submitting the above two letters, adds this: At first I thought it essential to boil a syringe before use, but there were occasions when the glass barrel would crack, quite unaccountably, although care was taken. The syringe was "taken down" and latterly was laid in cotton wool, covered with cold water and boiled. Even then I had one cracked. Continuous boiling does spoil the plating and brings away the dark staining of the graduations. Beside those disadvantages, it was not always convenient to boil a syringe either because of the time factor or the lack of facilities.

I stopped boiling as a routine measure, adopting it only on special occasions such as for intravenous injection or after a syringe had become fouled. The next method was to carry a 2 c.c. syringe in a pocket holder, just large enough to accommodate it. This was filled at first with methylated spirit; but I found that this did not prevent rusting. Then a solution of formalin was used. Eventually, however, I obtained a glass dish with a well-fitting glass lid, for holding all the syringes and needles and keeping them dustproof. My procedure for the last ten years has been to wash out the syringe and needle with warm water (with or without an antiseptic) immediately after use; drive out all moisture from the needle by working the piston up and down, "take down" the whole, wipe the piston with clean wool, and lay all the dry parts in the glass dish. This prevented the sticking of pistons in barrels, prevented clogging of the needles, cut out many breakages, and left me always with a clean syringe ready for use. Many thousands of injections must have been given in this way, including intraperitoneal injections for anaesthesia, and I can truthfully say that no mishap of any kind has ever occurred. Had it done so I would have had to revise my methods.

TRANSMISSION OF A PRESUMED VIRUS INFECTION (INFECTIVE HEPATITIS) AMONG HUMAN BEINGS FOLLOWING THE USE OF UNSTERILE SYRINGES*

During the course of the war many medical men who have to perform numerous intravenous injections daily with arsenical drugs for the treatment of syphilis, have had recourse to the simplification of the full technique of sterilisation between successive injections so that the syringe and needle are not boiled but merely washed out with tap or sterile water. Furthermore, to ensure that the needle is in the vein some blood is usually drawn into the syringe before injection, which becomes very difficult to remove by simple washing. Bigger (1943) had already suggested that this was probably the mode of transfer of infective hepatitis following upon syphilitic treatment, the only part played by the drug appearing to be to produce some impairment of the liver in a patient who was already suffering from an acute hepatitis.

After examining the histories of six groups of cases, Sheehan* found that in two of these groups the shortest incubation period following infection with contaminated syringes was about ten to twelve weeks, but the time of actual onset of jaundice could be delayed for upwards of 25 weeks. In the first of these two groups, the incidence was 100 cases of jaundice among 200 men treated with N.A.B. In the second, consisting of 34 men, the circumstances presented those of a controlled experiment inasmuch as jaundice only appeared among those treated on one of the two weekly treatment days, and the history of the admission of infection into those treated on that day could be definitely traced. In a group of 80 women treated at a clinic where the syringes were boiled by immersion in a strong antiseptic solution for 15 minutes before treatment, only two developed jaundice. At a centre where three-quarters of the patients treated developed jaundice, meticulous care was taken in the sterilisation of the syringes used on five patients, and these remained free from jaundice. That the arsenical drug (N.A.B.) used in the treatment was not the significant factor was strongly indicated by jaundice appearing in the three orderlies and three laboratory assistants employed at another centre merely in collecting blood or carrying out serum tests. At a sanatorium where 85 patients developed hepatitis some had been given gold or calcium therapy applied intravenously but none had received arsenical treatment.

Tracing the history of these cases Sheehan estimates that the blood must be highly infectious within three or four weeks after the start of the incubation period and is certainly infectious for up to nine weeks.

These findings with regard to syringe-transmitted infection are in accordance with what is known about hepatitis transmitted by the injection of yellow fever vaccine containing dried human plasma, of measles or mumps convalescent serum, and of blood transfusions. In all these cases there has been injection of presumably infected human blood or plasma, with the development of hepatitis about two to four months later. The donor blood appears to have been taken from patients in the incubation stage; there are no accounts of blood having been taken from patients with actual jaundice. In these artificially produced types of hepatitis there appears therefore to be a blood-borne virus responsible which is transmitted by injection into the body and produces jaundice about three months later.

In epidemic infective jaundice, where account has not been taken of the above factors it has been usually regarded that the incubation period is about 30 days because of the fact that in England cases of jaundice tend to follow each other at intervals of about a month. Experiments have shown that an incubation period of a month is certainly possible, and presumably there may be different strains of virus with different incubation periods as there are also great differences in mortality in different outbreaks.

In England infective hepatitis occurs in small epidemics at any time of the year, but more commonly between October and March, and most commonly in country districts, with a striking localisation to families. In the armies fighting in the Mediterranean zone there have been various severe outbreaks, beginning about September and fading away rather quickly in February. Sheehan believes that the evidence points throughout in the direction of a three-month incubation period and transfer of infection by a particular form of subcutaneous injection in all these cases rather than a one-month incubation period and transfer by faeces or droplets. The syringe-transmitted hepatitis shows that the minutest trace of infected blood will carry the infection, and the facts suggest some insect associated with sleeping quarters as a common agent, but upon this point there is hardly any trustworthy evidence yet available.

[The evidence here reported is of unusual interest to veterinary workers for two reasons: first, it throws light on the probable origin of some outbreaks of hepatitis reported in animals following certain methods of immunisation; secondly, it shows that no method of

* Sheehan, H. L. (1944.) Epidemiology of Infective Hepatitis. *Lancet*. **247**. 8–11.

sterilisation of syringes short of boiling or other heat treatment, with careful after maintenance in sterile conditions of the syringes, should be regarded as satisfactory.]

J. T. E.

CORRESPONDENCE

The views expressed in letters addressed to the Editor represent the personal views of the writer only and must not be taken as expressing the opinion or having received the approval of the N.V.M.A.

Letters to the Editor should reach the Office not later than by the first post on Monday morning for insertion in following Saturday's issue.

* * * * *

CHRONIC MASTITIS

Sir,—I suppose more has been written about chronic mastitis within recent years than any other disease affecting the dairy cow and in spite of much bacteriological investigation and modern methods of treatment it still remains as prevalent as ever. This is to be expected since bacteriology usually only discovers half the truth as far as disease is concerned. In seeking the answer to many problems we are too apt to look for it in the clouds, whereas, in fact, it is staring us in the face on the ground, and the real solution to many veterinary problems—perhaps all, if the truth were known—lies not in Koch's postulates, niceties in diagnosis, pharmaceutics, etc., but in modern animal husbandry and all the vicious practices which it entails. In my opinion chronic mastitis is no exception.

The cow's teat was never meant to be used except as an instrument in the process of suckling, but man stepped in and appropriated the birthright of the calf for his own use and by so doing subjected the teat to a foreign process, thereby creating trouble in the shape of disease. Under present-day conditions no great harm is done provided the teat-cup liners in particular are properly adjusted in the case of mechanical milking or if the teat is "kneaved" by an efficient milker in the case of hand-milking, since, in both instances, there is no great deviation from nature. The trouble begins, however, as soon as the unnatural process of stripping appears. By this I mean particularly the stripping which takes place at the end of milking, whether by hand or machine, when the teat is not ballooned with milk. To strip properly, if this must be done, the milker should hold the teat in the apex of the angle formed by the thumb and forefinger, both of which must be held straight. A cushion is thus formed and what is more important no great pressure can be exerted. Nearly all milkers, however, when stripping, grip the teat either between the point of the thumb and the second joint of the forefinger or between the point of the thumb and the hook formed by the forefinger. In either case a severe form of nipping takes place at the point where the teat is first gripped and considerable tension is exercised on the downward pull. In view of the delicate nature of the lining of the teat duct it is not difficult to envisage how injury takes place, and I am convinced that injury so produced is the fundamental cause of chronic mastitis. Infection with *streptococcus agalactiae* may or may not take place at a later date. I am also of opinion that fibroma in the teat duct and those troublesome scabs that seasonally appear at the point of the teat are also attributable to stripping. The fibromata are no doubt caused by constant nipping and the scabs by injury inflicted on the sphincter as the fingers slip off the point of the teat; the sphincter at that moment being forced into a partially everted position as a result of downward tension.

Consequently, I am of opinion that the first step in the approach to the problem of chronic mastitis in a herd is the abolition of stripping. This will not be easy at first as it is difficult "to break" a cow of the habit of stripping and it may even be dangerous in the case of already infected cows. If, however, the owner will refrain from stripping newly calved heifers and teach them to milk quickly, say, inside five minutes in the case of machines, not only will chronic mastitis automatically disappear, but the process of milking will become a less drawn-out affair.

I should possibly say that I have had the opportunity to put the above conclusions to the test, but apart from this altogether I have made a special study of this problem in the course of routine herd inspection, and if one enquires as to an owner's methods of milking, the nature of the herd, and watches the milkers at work, one can make a very accurate guess as to what an examination of the herd will reveal.

When discussing this problem with a colleague some time ago he informed me that when in Egypt the natives there did not approve of stripping their goats because, as they said, the udder would thus be "chilled" and mastitis result. It would seem that they, although wrong in their interpretation, were nearer the truth than we are.

Yours faithfully,

Strathaven. JOHN WEIR.

November 14th, 1944.

CALF VACCINATION SCHEME

Sir,—On reading carefully the Ministry's "Two Important Notices to Dairy Farmers" sent recently to veterinary surgeons, together with Circular No. 355, I realised that an entirely wrong impression has been given to the farmer. Any farmer reading this notice will naturally expect that in future his own veterinary surgeon will carry out all his herd inspections. Paragraph 5 of Circular 355 makes it clear to us that this is not so, but the farmer has not received this circular. When a whole-time inspector comes instead of his own veterinary surgeon he may very easily think that his veterinary surgeon was not considered capable of carrying out this inspection by the Ministry.

I trust that the "National" will make the strongest possible representations to the Ministry to correct this erroneous impression.

Yours faithfully,

Elvet Waterside, Durham. JOHN D. PEELE.

November 21st, 1944.

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UDDER INFUSION, ETC., BY LAYMEN: THE NEED FOR CONTROL

Sir,—Much literature has recently been published in the *Record* discussing the results that may follow udder infusion in the bovine. It now seems obvious that, unless this procedure is carried out with the greatest of care as to the sterility of the instruments employed, there is a serious danger that tuberculosis of the udder may result. It would also appear quite clear that the only person who is sufficiently qualified to perform this operation is the veterinary surgeon himself and no other.

For many years now farmers have themselves treated cows suffering from milk fever by udder inflation and recently I have heard that some farmers carry out udder infusion. Now, to my astonishment, I note in the farming Press of late advertisements advocating udder infusion as a treatment for chronic mastitis and, so it would appear, the advertisers are prepared to issue their preparation not only to veterinary surgeons but also to members of the farming community.

One might argue that the stockowner, in the normal run of circumstances, should be free to treat his own animals should he so choose, but if this, as in the case of udder infusion, may result in a serious danger to public health, then it is time that some control of such procedures should be instituted.

Yours faithfully,

35, Upper Garth Road, Bangor, N. Wales. H. WILLIAMS SMITH.

November 18th, 1944.

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SIX-DAY CHICK DISEASE

Sir,—Mr. G. Mayall, of Bolton, in November 11th issue, objects to the simple and expressive title "Six-day Disease." Perhaps he would himself like to suggest a suitable "cognomen."

But as a victim of this mis-named disease myself I should like to probe further into his reference to a "well-known" breeder who rears so well on *good* balancer meal, yeast, minerals, grass and cod-liver oil. (What, incidentally, does he mean by good balancer meal? And I was under the impression that most well-known breeders were accredited and did not receive balancer meal.)

But apparently this particular breeder uses balancer meal right through—although it is not officially available until eight weeks; and he apparently has no adults—and no reference is made to supplementary scraps. Were not they used at all? If, for example, some good quality plate leavings were used—even, it may be whispered, stale bread—might they not have had the same result as crushed yeast tablets?

Yours faithfully,

Poultry Farmer, 93, Long Acre, W.C.2. ALAN THOMPSON.

November 21st, 1944.

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VICTORIA VETERINARY BENEVOLENT FUND

Christmas Gift Appeal

Sir,—May we again appeal through your columns on behalf of the widows and orphans who are recipients of grants from this Fund, and to whom we would like to send a gift at Christmas to enable them to get some little extra comforts? We have already received a donation of £10 10s. from Mr. Wm. Collinson, of South Anston, Sheffield, for this purpose. We can assure members that the receipt of even £1 or £2 at Christmas is doubly welcome in these difficult times, and the recipients are most grateful. Donations should be sent to the Secretary of the Fund at 9, Red Lion Square, London, W.C.1, to be received not later

than Saturday, December 16th. Sums received later than that will be credited to next year's Fund.

Yours faithfully,
J. W. Brittlebank, *President.*
Arnold Spicer, *Treasurer.*
P. J. Simpson, *Hon. Secretary.*

Victoria Veterinary Benevolent Fund,
10, Red Lion Square, London, W.C.1.
November 21st, 1944.

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JULY MEETING OF COUNCIL, N.V.M.A.

Sir,—My attention has been drawn to statements attributed to me and published on page 113 of the supplement of *The Veterinary Record* of September 23rd, 1944.

Contrary to custom I was given no opportunity of correcting my contribution to the discussion, and it is, therefore, not surprising that the statements are not entirely accurate.

As printed, I quoted the President of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons as saying, "Had it not been for the activities of the Association, it was extremely improbable that the petition of the R.C.V.S. would have been successful," whereas I believe, what he actually said was, "The day would perhaps have gone hard with us (the R.C.V.S.) without the support of the N.V.M.A."

Furthermore, with regard to my subsequent words, it would appear that I was misinformed as to the facts, and I would like, therefore, to withdraw any implication that is not commendatory.

Yours faithfully,
H. W. Steele-Bodger.

28, Lichfield Street,
Tamworth, Staffordshire.
November 21st, 1944.

* * * * *

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Sir,—The time has come for the worm to turn. In your issue of November 4th, 1944, under the above heading, the oracle has let fall the following jewel from his pen: "Stabilisation of the affected is the best way of preventing the spread of the disease in the herd." He meant, I suppose, "The best way to prevent the spread of the disease in the herd is to keep the affected animal in the stable." "Hospitalisation" is an ugly mongrel, but "stabilisation" used in this nonsensical way is an illegitimate monstrosity which should have been strangled at birth.

By the fatuity of many of its questions (their only answer should be "Look it up for yourself") and the poor quality of some of the answers, this section of your journal will have one sure effect: that of lowering the veterinary profession in its own eyes and in those of the numerous outsiders who read it.

Yours faithfully,
F. R. Spratling.

14 & 16, Queen's Road, Reading.
November 18th, 1944.

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HIGHER STATUS FOR THE VETERINARY PROFESSION

Sir,—I read recently with considerable interest the remarks passed by your correspondent, Mr. W. B. Brownie, M.R.C.V.S., on "Higher Status." He rightly quotes that the veterinary profession use the same drugs, the same care and skill in surgery as the medical profession, and yet do they avail themselves of other modern methods to advantage?

I approached recently a number of veterinary surgeons apparently representative of both the old and new schools of thought, suggesting facilities relating to biochemical, bacteriological and pathological technique as applied to the veterinary profession.

Strange to relate, quite a number pooh-pooh the idea, whereas from another section the response was encouraging, and admissions were made that my services had been of the greatest value in diagnosis in veterinary practice.

The conclusion I formed was that the younger members of the profession appreciate this age of specialisation.

No doubt such facilities are offered veterinary surgeons by their fellow members of the profession, but if the medical laboratory technician is recognised by the medical profession and county hospital administration, being fully aware that they are not connected in any other way with the medical profession, surely the veterinary profession should acknowledge them and avail themselves of their experience in laboratory technique.

Yours faithfully,
A. W. Read,
Medical Laboratory Technician,
Association of Scientific Workers.

71, Mount Park Road,
Eastcote, Pinner, Middlesex.
November 22nd, 1944.

THE FUTURE OF THE VETERINARY PROFESSION

Sir,—Though not having yet had a great experience of life I should like to state some of the credences gained during four years at college, the main one being that there are a great many people in the profession who wish and desire to see a far greater extension of State control. They would advocate "State control this" and "Let the Ministry do that," etc., etc., the latest example being Mr. Field's proposition of State control for all measures of preventive medicine and subsidising of practitioners. Surely this goes against the grain of any Englishman who takes pride in his inherent independence of action and thought in all matters affecting him personally. If this sort of thing progresses, I can visualise in a decade or so—allowing myself some exaggeration—"an individual who has to sign a form to breathe the local air."

In my opinion State control means the end of competition. Competition is the one thing that forces a man to strive in life—at whatever job he does; and to obviate it is to leave everything in bare uniformity and degrades man to the position of a mere unit.

Another thing I have learnt is that far too many people take it for granted that the opinion of any well-known personality concerning a relevant subject in his walk of life is necessarily always correct: a typical example being that the Loveday Report has been accepted in many parts of the community as being automatically *bona fide*. This does not agree with one of the oldest English dogmas, "that one man's opinion is as good as the next and that he has every right to state it." Particularly does this apply to veterinary education.

The Loveday Report, as one of its main reasons for transferring private colleges to universities, states that the advantages acquired by the veterinary student in sharing in the amenities and mixing with the university man are enormous. Speaking for myself only, during over three years' fraternity with members of Reading University, I can honestly say that I can see no way in which their education was fundamentally better than ours, and that the amenities of the University were very comparable on both cultural and social sides to our own at the London College.

Consequently I have strong notions against anyone or any body imbued with the deplorable idea of wiping out any form of individuality and substituting a scheme where everybody is "much of a muchness and all alike." I think it rests with the profession to advertise itself more strongly, and to rise to the occasion and deal with any problems arising without having any more recourse to State control and all its hampering and fettering conditions. This may be easier said than done, but surely it is the course to follow, sooner than become—every one of us—a paid servant of an overwhelming master.

In conclusion, may I quote an old saying: "If a man cannot look after his own business there will always be plenty to do it for him."

Yours faithfully,
Fourth Year Student.

DISEASES OF ANIMALS ACTS, 1894 TO 1937, AND AGRICULTURE ACT, 1937 (PART IV).

Summary of Returns of Confirmed Outbreaks of Scheduled (Notifiable) Diseases

Period	Anthrax	Foot-and-mouth	Parasitic Mange*	Sheep Scab	Swine Fever
Oct. 16th to 31st, 1944 ...	5	37	—	91	99
Corresponding period in—					
1943 ...	13	—	—	49	27
1942 ...	30	21	—	30	27
1941 ...	11	—	1	6	12
Total Jan. 1st to Oct. 31, 1944	154	134	7	177	1,200
Corresponding period in—					
1943 ...	244	15	6	175	447
1942 ...	292	552	26	168	400
1941 ...	354	259	17	160	996

Note.—The figures for the current year are approximate only.
* Excluding outbreaks in Army Horses.

Tuberculosis (Attested Herds) Schemes

The number of Attested Herds, *i.e.*, herds officially certified as free from Tuberculosis as at October 31st, 1944, was as follows:—

England	Wales	Scotland	Total (Great Britain)
4,291	8,507	3,952	16,750